

The State Education Data Landscape in Texas

Texas is data rich. Through three state agencies, Texas collects data on each student's education pathway from early childhood through K–12, higher education, and the workforce. This information is then shared out through a number of public and role-based tools, resources, and publications. While Texas has plenty of data, a lack of cohesion and clarity across the many available data tools and resources can leave Texans wondering where to turn for the information they need. This document is a companion piece to the Data Quality Campaign's infographic, [The State Education Data Landscape in Texas](#), which provides an overview of Texas's existing education data landscape and highlights areas for continued growth.

Why do Texans need data?

Different people need data to answer different questions. Depending on their role in the education system, Texans may have questions such as:

- How well do the early childhood education options in my area prepare their students for kindergarten?
- Which high schools have the highest college retention and completion rates among graduates?
- How many graduates from a given college program find employment after graduating?
- Which career and technical education (CTE) program places the most graduates in jobs in my chosen field?

Getting answers to these kinds of questions is essential to making informed decisions based on a person's specific context, needs, and goals. The role of the data system, therefore, is to ensure that Texans have access to the data they need.

What does the data landscape in Texas look like?

In Texas, education data is collected through three primary state agencies. These agencies operate independently, each overseeing different parts of the education landscape.

The **Texas Education Agency (TEA)** oversees primary and secondary public education in Texas. TEA collects information from all traditional and charter K–12 public schools and districts in order to distribute state and federal funds, monitor school operations and finances, and manage the implementation of curricular standards and other state policies. As the agency that houses Texas's school accountability system, TEA also collects annual student performance and enrollment data to assess and report out on school and district quality. Additionally, TEA is responsible for teacher certification in Texas and maintains a database of all current Texas educator credentials.

The **Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB)** provides leadership and coordination for all degree-granting higher education institutions in Texas, including universities, community colleges, technical schools, and independent colleges and universities, and works to promote access and quality across Texas's higher education landscape. As the authorizing agency for all postsecondary institutions, THECB collects annual finance, operations, and programming data from

all degree-granting institutions in the state. THECB also collects information on student enrollment, progress, and education and workforce outcomes in order to establish and monitor progress towards statewide higher education goals.

Finally, the **Texas Workforce Commission (TWC)** oversees all workforce development and training programs in Texas. TWC encompasses a wide range of federal- and state-funded initiatives, including career training and occupational licensure, adult education and employment initiatives, federal assistance programs (including SNAP AND TANF), and subsidized childcare programs. TWC collects individual- and program-level data from all of these programs in order to distribute funding, monitor compliance and services, track statewide labor market indicators, and share information with employers and job seekers across the state.

For more information on the level and type of data each agency collects annually, see Appendix A.

[How can Texans access this data?](#)

The three agencies that collect data in Texas share data through a number of databases, tools, and resources. Each of these platforms serves to answer a different set of user questions, based on their grain size, scope, and topic area. The descriptions below highlight the primary tools and resources available through Texas's three state agencies, though it is not exhaustive list.

[Role-based access](#)

In order to protect the student privacy, Texas agencies limit access to student-level education data. Through TEA's **StudentGPS Data Dashboard**, K–12 teachers and school leaders can view their students' year-to-year data. The platform allows teachers and administrators to understand each of their students' past and current performance, and also flags emerging issues to help them better provide critical supports. Because the dashboard is supported by TEA's internal data system (Texas Student Data System, or TSDS), it does not provide any higher education or workforce data.

Approved researchers can also access individual-level data through **Education Research Centers (ERCs)**, a cross-agency data system that houses integrated longitudinal data from TEA, THECB, and TWC. Through ERCs, researchers can explore how individual students in Texas have progressed through K–12 to college, the workforce, and beyond. Interested researchers must submit their research questions to a tri-agency review council for approval; once approved, they are also required to pay a substantial annual access fee (ranging from \$500 to \$5,000 for student dissertations and \$10,000 to \$15,000 for other researcher projects). Additionally, ERC data can only be accessed at one of three in-person data centers across the state.

[Public access](#)

In addition to these role-based data sources, all Texans can explore aggregate data through numerous public data sources. The **Texas Public Education Information Resource (TPEIR)**, for instance, provides linked data from TEA, THECB, and TWC. On the TPEIR website, users can view datasets, tables, and reports on early childhood, K–12, college, and workforce outcomes, as well as information on topics such as college and career readiness, high school transitions, and educator quality. TPEIR serves as a one-stop shop for any students, parents, or education partners to gather data on any topic of interest.

To learn more about college and career outcomes in particular, the **Texas Consumer Resource for Workforce Statistics (Texas CREWS)** is an initiative to connect THECB's postsecondary data to TWC's workforce data. On the Texas CREWS website, users can search by major, job area, or institution¹ to view state-wide earnings, employment, and job placement information. The purpose of this site is to support Texas's students and parents in making informed college and career choices that are aligned to their needs and goals.

In addition to these linked data sources, each agency provides access to aggregated data through numerous online datasets, reports, and publications. On each agency's website, users can also use various data tools to view information specific to their context or interests.

For a full list of tools available across the three agencies, along with a brief summary of the purpose and function of each, see Appendix B.

[How can state leaders ensure that data systems help Texans find answers to their questions?](#)

Despite the wealth of education data that exists in Texas, it can be difficult to know where to look for a specific piece of data or how to use that data to make decisions. For example, a student wondering what job to pursue after college could look in at least four different places to find the data she needs: TPEIR's Employment & Earnings by Education datasets, Texas CREWS for employment outcomes by major, THECB's exit cohort reports by institution, or TWC's statewide labor market data by sector. All are related to her question, but different in scope and level and are hosted on completely different websites. With so many choices and little direction, some users may never find the information they need, leaving them to make decisions in the dark.

Moving forward, state leaders should work together to find ways to strengthen the cohesion and clarity of the education data available in their state. Doing so will ensure that Texans are able to find the information they need to inform their decision making and achieve their unique goals.

¹ Although THECB collects data on all degree-granting institutions in Texas, TPEIR only allows users to search employment outcomes for public 2- and 4-year institutions.

Appendix A: Texas Data Collection

Agency	Data Source	Level of Data	Type of Data
TEA	Districts	Early Childhood	Individual-level student data <i>Enrollment, demographics, program participation (e.g. special education, English language learners, gifted and talented, etc.), performance, progression, graduation, college readiness and enrollment.</i>
		K–12	School-level data <i>Enrollment & demographics, operations & finance info, staff data, student performance, accountability indicators</i>
	Teacher Certification Programs	K–12	Individual-level teacher data <i>Certification type, status</i>
THECB	Authorized Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions	Higher Education	Individual-level student data <i>Enrollment & demographics, HS info & performance, program & degree intent, financial aid status, graduation & degree conferred, employment status (1 year after grad)</i> Program-level data <i>Admissions data, facilities & campus information, faculty & staff, course offerings</i>
TWC	State-funded Workforce Development Programs	Workforce	Individual-level data <i>Program participation & demographics, educational background, employment status, earnings & wage data</i>
	Federally-funded Financial Assistance Programs	Workforce	Program- and state-level data <i>Employer needs, job/internship opportunities, job training resources, state-wide labor market data</i>
	Authorized Occupational Licensure Programs	Workforce	Program- and state-level data <i>Employer needs, job/internship opportunities, job training resources, state-wide labor market data</i>
	Subsidized Childcare Providers	Early Childhood	Program-level data <i>Enrollment, staffing</i>

Appendix B: Texas Data Tools

Agency	Tool
TEA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ AskTED (Texas Education Directory), where users can view and download school- and district-level school directory and staffing information. ○ Certificate Look Up, where users can search and view the certification status of specific educators by name. ○ Completion, Graduation and Dropout Data, where users can search graduation and dropout data for each year by school, district, or county. ○ Discipline Annual Summary Reports, where users can view school-, district-, or region-level reports on discipline incidents. ○ District Action Group Summary Reports, where users can view district- or region-level reports on discipline incidents disaggregated by student group. ○ Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Database, where users can search districts' financial accountability rating system scores. ○ PEIMS Standard Reports, where users can view district-, region-, and state-level reports of PEIMS-reported data (including college credit hours earned; economically disadvantaged students; EL students by category/language/grade; foundational high school program enrollment and graduation; graduates, special education services; enrollment; student program enrollment; transfers; and graduates entering college by college, public school districts, or geographic area). ○ Snapshot: School District Profiles, where users can view reports containing district-level enrollment, demographic, performance, staffing, and financial data. ○ Staff FTE Counts and Salary Reports, where users can view FTE staff salaries by district, county, region, or state. ○ Superintendent Salary Reports, where users can view superintendent salary by district, county, region, or state. ○ Teacher FTE Counts and Course Enrollment Reports, where users can view course offerings and enrollment by district, county, region, or state. ○ Texas Academic Performance Reports, where users can view comprehensive academic performance reports by school or district. ○ TXschools.gov, where users can search for and view school report cards. ○ Waivers Online Report, where users can view waivers submitted by, in progress, and approved/denied for schools and districts.
THECB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ CBM Reporting Status, where users can find the data reporting status of any institution in Texas. ○ College for All Texans, where users can view information on specific institutions including location and programs/degrees offered. Users can also use a calculator to figure out their net cost of attendance. ○ Tracking Postsecondary Outcomes, where users can search for postsecondary readiness, enrollment, and persistence of high school graduates by district, region, or statewide. ○ TX Consumer Resource for Workforce Statistics (CREWS), where users can explore programs and institutions based on resultant wages and student loan levels (developed in partnership with TWC). ○ TX Genuine, where users can search CTE programs by program area, institution, or career path. ○ TX Higher Education Accountability System, where users can view organizational information and data on student enrollment, marketable skills, and post-graduation debt by institution.

TWC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TX Career Check, where users can view wages and openings by career path as well as enrollment and cost by postsecondary institution. ○ TX Consumer Resource for Workforce Statistics (CREWS), where users can explore programs and institutions based on resultant wages and student loan levels (developed in partnership with THECB). ○ TX Labor Analysis, where users can build reports on employment, wage data, and education by sector and region. ○ TX Labor Market Information (LMI), where users can explore employment, and wage data by metropolitan area, year, and sector. ○ TX OnCourse, a one-stop-shop site for career planning where users can explore high school performance and college readiness data through a platform called DataDive. ○ TX Reality Check, where users can calculate the costs of living and expected wages for different jobs and sectors. ○ TX Training Inventory, where users can access program-level data such as enrollment, graduation, and degree attainment for all postsecondary institutions in the state (including public and private universities, state colleges, career training institutions, and health training facilities). ○ TX Wages, where users can view local wage data by sector.
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