

TEXAS



 **State Highlight**

Effective Advising Framework. Texas created its [Effective Advising Framework](#) to guide career advising throughout grades K-12. It started with pilots in several districts and has recently expanded statewide. The state uses Perkins V funds to support the implementation of the framework and assist school districts in the leadership and strategic planning of an individual student planning system.



VISION



State Definition. Texas' [WBL guidance](#) defines career exploration as the next step after students identify and gain a deeper understanding of their available options.

State Plans and Frameworks. Texas' [Tri-Agency Strategic Framework](#) specifies that public elementary and secondary schools should work with stakeholders to design, implement, and assess career exploration opportunities. The [Workforce Commission's Strategic Plan](#) also includes directing students to multiple training and career paths with onsite support at public middle and high schools.

Texas has yet to codify the definition of career exploration.



POLICY



Instruction in High School, College, and Career Preparation. Texas [code](#) requires districts to provide instruction to 7th and 8th-grade students that prepares them for college and career. It must include potential career choices and the education needed to enter those careers.

State Leadership Funds. Texas leverages its [Perkins V Plan](#) to provide state leadership funds to the middle school curriculum on career exploration activities and build the capacity of local advising programs to guide those activities.



INFRASTRUCTURE






Texas OnCourse. As a result of legislation, the University of Texas created [Texas OnCourse](#), the state's unified source for college and career planning. The online tool is a portal to help students, families, and educators see how experiences in middle and high school lead to college and career paths. Educators are given \$480 in OnCourse rewards and continuing education credits using their Texas OnCourse platform. Texas OnCourse also features an optional data feature for district leaders using the College and Career Knowledge Assessment.

TX Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs. The Texas Education Agency created a resource, the [TX Model for Comprehensive Counseling Programs](#), that outlines a process for tailoring school counseling programs to meet students' varying needs throughout the state.





TEXAS • VISION

Category	Status	Description
<p>Leadership</p> <p>Does the state leadership include career exploration as a valued or prioritized component of students' middle school experience?</p>	 <p>Building Emerging Advanced</p>	<p>TX's Tri-Agency Strategic Framework specifies the roles and responsibilities of key WBL stakeholders, including public elementary and secondary schools, who should work together to design, implement, and assess career exploration opportunities and evaluate student and program success. Similarly, one of the strategies outlined in TX's Workforce Commission's Strategic Plan includes directing students to multiple available training and career path options with onsite support at public middle and high schools. Additionally, Governor Abbot awarded 50 scholarships for a middle school pilot program involving interactive programmatic career exploration activities.</p>
<p>Career Exploration Definition</p> <p>Does the state formally define career exploration for middle school students?</p>	 <p>Building Emerging Advanced</p>	<p>TX's WBL guidance defines career exploration as the next step after students identify and gain a deeper understanding of their available options. Students learn about specific occupations during the career exploration phase and accumulate additional information to inform their decision-making process.</p>
<p>Advocacy</p> <p>Are there organizations within the state that are advocating for middle school career exploration?</p>	 <p>Building Emerging Advanced</p>	<p>TX does not have any organizations advocating for middle school career exploration that rose to recognition within the landscape scan.</p>



Category	Status	Description
Standards Does the state have policies that establish standard practices for career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	TX Education Code <u>requires districts to provide instruction</u> to 7th and 8th-grade middle school students that prepares them for college and career. It must include potential career choices and the education needed to enter those careers. TX's State Board of Education recently adopted standards for a <u>college and career exploration course</u> . TX also offers <u>middle school CTE courses</u> , Investigating Careers, and College and Career Readiness. The middle school curriculum uses TEKS, Texas College & Career Readiness Cross-Disciplinary Standards, and Student Competencies as defined by the <u>Texas Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs</u> .
Accountability Does the state integrate career exploration into their accountability systems?	 Building Emerging Advanced	TX does not integrate career exploration into its ESSA state plan. However, Texas leverages its <u>Perkins V Plan</u> to provide state leadership funds to the middle school curriculum on career exploration activities and build the capacity of local advising programs to guide those activities.
Student Requirements Does the state have policies that require middle school students to complete career exploration activities?	 Building Emerging Advanced	While TX Education Code requires districts to provide instruction in 7th or 8th grade in preparing for high school, college, and a career, middle school students are not required to enroll in said courses in order to transition to high school.
Incentives Does the state have policies that incentivize career exploration in middle schools?	 Building Emerging Advanced	The state provides an <u>Effective Advising Grant</u> that supports school districts in the leadership and strategic planning of an individual student planning system aligned to the Effective Advising Framework.



TEXAS • INFRASTRUCTURE

Category	Status	Description
Funding Does the state use state or federal funding sources to support career exploration for middle school students?		TX uses Perkins V dollars to provide a middle school curriculum on career exploration and to implement online access to career exploration tools and employer outreach. The state also uses these funds to support an Effective Advising Framework for grades K-12 and supports school districts in the leadership and strategic planning of an individual student planning system. TX also recently allocated state funding to expand CTE programming to middle school students starting in 7th grade.
Professional Development Does the state support the training of school counselors (and other school staff) in career exploration?		Perkins leadership funds were used to implement Effective Advising Framework advisor training . Educators are given \$480 in OnCourse rewards and continuing education credits by using their Texas OnCourse platform.
Material Supports Does the state provide material supports on the implementation of middle school career exploration?		The TX Model for Comprehensive School Counseling Programs outlines a process for tailoring school counseling programs to meet the varying needs of students throughout the state. The College and Career Readiness course scope and sequence is a resource for CTE instruction for each career cluster. The state also has resources on its Effective Advising Framework website .
Data Collection Does the state collect data on middle school career exploration opportunities in the state?		Texas OnCourse features an optional data feature for district leaders using the College and Career Knowledge Assessment.
CTSOs Does the state support participation in career and technical student organizations?		TX supports CTSOs , six of which have middle school chapters: FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, TX SkillsUSA, and TSA. TEA's oversight policy provides programmatic and fiscal guidance for state CTSOs. TX Education Code also recognizes CTSOs as an integral part of the state's career and technology education.
Organizations Are there organizations within the state that support career exploration in middle schools?		Education Open Doors partners with middle schools to train teachers to equip their students with the college and career knowledge and skills they need for long-term success. DesignYou! Code Camp is for rising 6th-8th graders and provides computer coding/programming hands-on experience that provides challenging and innovative concepts in learning, problem-solving, and analytical skills while fostering an interest in computer coding/programming and its relation to the fashion and retailing industry.