



## ***NEWS***

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### **TEXAS CONSORTIUM ON SCHOOL RESEARCH FACILITATES USE OF RESEARCH TO IMPROVE STUDENT OUTCOMES**

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**SAN ANTONIO** – Great excitement was evident at the recent **Texas Consortium on School Research (TCSR)** forum as leadership from over 20 Texas School districts/schools convened in Houston and demonstrated how the Consortium is facilitating the use of data to improve student outcomes. TCSR ([tcsr.edvanceresearch.com](http://tcsr.edvanceresearch.com)) has gained tremendous momentum as participating districts share peer data and develop and enhance district practices with a focus on College Readiness.

Sara Arispe, Executive Director of Accountability and Data Quality at Fort Worth ISD, shared her experience as a TCSR member, “Fort Worth ISD is thrilled to participate in the Texas Consortium on School Research. This is an exciting opportunity to increase collaboration between practitioners in districts and researchers to leverage and share education research efforts, analyses, findings, and best practices relevant to Texas as we all move more strategically toward common goals like increasing career and college readiness”.

This meeting was especially compelling as a number of district members illustrated the value of TCSR as a **Community of Practice**. District presentations provided insights on how data is making a difference in their schools and focused on the diverse application of the research in “real-world” scenarios. Participating researchers provided a peer review of the research application and suggestions to assist districts in refining the research to optimize results.

- **Conroe ISD: *High School Allotment Funds and a District Level Program that Works***

Sherry Sunderman, Coordinator of Guidance & Counseling and

Imee Villarreal, College Readiness Specialist

- **Dallas ISD: *Middle Grades Indicators of High School Success***

Dr. Cecilia Oakeley, Executive Director of Evaluation & Accountability and

Dr. Dorothea Weir, Manager, Office of Applied Research

- **El Paso ISD: *Student Mobility Is an Indicator for College Readiness***  
Yinuo Du, Senior Evaluator, Carlos Perales, Researcher and  
Dr. James Steinhauser, Assistant Superintendent, Research & Evaluation
- **Fort Worth ISD: *College and Career Readiness: Listening to Student Voice***  
Sara Arispe, Executive Director, Accountability and Data Quality and  
Chad Davis, Director, Data Analysis & Reporting
- **Galena Park ISD: *GPISD Scholars' Academy: Preparing a New Generation for Academic Success***  
Dr. Darrell McWhorter, Program Director

In addition to the district perspectives, Nicholas Montgomery, Senior Research Analyst at The Consortium on Chicago School Research (CCSR) and Dr. Christopher Mazzeo, Consultant and former Associate Director of Policy & Research at (CCSR) presented and discussed *Making Use of Freshman Data* and Dr. Eric Rolfhus, Research Scientist at the Regional Educational Laboratory – Southwest (REL Southwest) at Edvance Research, presented findings from the laboratory's recent publication, [\*Are Texas' English Language Arts and Reading Standards College Ready?\*](#)

TCSR is an **action-oriented Consortium** managed by the [REL Southwest at Edvance Research \(Managing Partner\)](#) in partnership with [The University of Texas at Dallas Education Research Center \(UTD-ERC\)](#) and [Consortium on Chicago School Research \(CCSR\)](#). The Consortium allows participating member districts across the state to partner in building research capacity to address critical issues to support school improvement efforts.

With the recent national focus on education reform, education leaders and researchers are anxious to understand data and find the most effective methods to utilize this knowledge in their daily work. TCSR member districts are heavily involved with building capacity for leadership around research, identifying and sharing best practices, conducting research to know what works and what doesn't work in their districts and analyzing data to find new ways to address issues. TCSR provides a safe venue for its members to interact and share data, ideas, successes and challenges that lead to collective and ongoing improvements in the interpretation and application of data. **The members of TCSR are building a dynamic Community of Practice around school research.**

Representation at the Texas Consortium included participants, from geographically and demographically diverse school districts in the state that have demonstrated impactful approaches to school improvement including Beaumont ISD, Conroe ISD, Cypress-Fairbanks, Dallas ISD, El Paso ISD, Fort Bend ISD, Fort Worth ISD, Galena Park ISD, Grapevine-Colleyville ISD, Harlingen ISD, Houston ISD, Humble ISD, Katy ISD, Klein ISD, Lewisville ISD, Lubbock ISD, Northside ISD (San Antonio), Plano ISD, Presbyterian, Spring Branch ISD and YES Prep Public Schools (Houston). An added benefit for districts is the Continuing Professional Education credits earned through attendance at the meeting.

In addition, leadership from the Texas Education Agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Picard Center for Child Development in New Orleans participated in the event. REL Southwest at Edvance Research is working with education leaders in Arkansas and Louisiana to replicate the success

of TCSR in these states. The Arkansas research consortium will have a rural focus, while the Louisiana research consortium will examine specific education needs in the region.

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