

SUPPLEMENTAL MATERIALS

Committee on Academic and Workforce Success

AGENDA ITEM V-O (4)

Consideration of adopting the request to establish an interagency contract (IAC) with The University of Texas at Austin for continued research and data services for Texas OnCourse

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Background Information:

In 2015, the 84th Texas Legislature invested in improving college and career planning and readiness, creating Texas OnCourse. This investment fueled unprecedented collaboration between K–12 educators, state agencies, higher education institutions, and employers across the state. While The University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin) received the original charge, the 87th Texas Legislature moved the operations of the initiative to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB).

Since inception, the Research and Data team at UT-Austin’s Office of Strategy and Policy have provided critical research services and data infrastructure and management for the initiative. Research and Data support services include database development and management; administration of data service agreements; survey development, implementation and reporting; research agenda and grants management as applicable; and external evaluation oversight and implementation. For programmatic continuity, Texas OnCourse seeks to continue the engagement with the UT-Austin’s Research and Data team for the next fiscal year.

The Research and Data team will manage a contract for a third-party evaluation of Texas OnCourse’s impact on student outcomes. This evaluation is essential to understanding how Texas OnCourse resources and programming contribute to the goals of *60x30TX*.

THECB staff recommends that the agency establishes an inter-agency contract with UT-Austin for continued research and data services for Texas OnCourse, ending August 31, 2023. The projected cost of the Research and Data services during each fiscal year of the agreement is \$200,000 for a total of \$400,000. The pass-through cost of the third-party evaluation is \$190,200.

Jerel Booker, Assistant Commissioner for College Readiness and Success, and Laura Brennan, Deputy Assistant Commissioner for College and Career Advising, will present this item and be available to answer questions.