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1

2

01/22



# **BACKGROUND**

In 2015, the Texas State Legislature invested in improving college and career planning and readiness, creating Texas OnCourse.

In 2021, Texas OnCourse moved operations from UT Austin to THECB.

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3

## STATEWIDE COLLABORATION

Texas OnCourse is the result of educators, employers and state agencies working together.



2,500 educators helped build Texas OnCourse.

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#### **CORE OFFERINGS**



Digital, on-demand professional development for educators



Interactive college and career exploration tools and curriculum for students and families

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5

### **Counselors Role in Student Outcomes**

- The role of counselors has been positively linked to student outcomes

  - Increase students' postsecondary aspirations<sup>1</sup>
    Increase the selectivity of colleges students attend<sup>2</sup>
    Increase persistence in higher education<sup>3</sup>

  - Increase students' likelihood of receiving financial aid and enrolling in college<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Farmer-Hinton & Adams, 2006; Hurwitz & Howell, 2014; McDonough, 1997; Mulhern, 2019; Poynton & Lapan, 2017; Stanton-Salazar, 1997

<sup>2</sup>Stephan & Rosenbaum, 2013

<sup>3</sup>Bettinger & Baker, 2014

<sup>4</sup>Bettinger, Long, Oreopoulos, & Sanbonmatsu, 2012

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3

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#### However...

- Pre-service training in college advising varies by states, organizations, and school districts<sup>1</sup>
- High caseloads<sup>2</sup>
  - Lead to lower postsecondary outcomes
- Increased reliance on non-counseling staff
- No instrument to measure educators' knowledge of postsecondary topics

<sup>1</sup>Bridgeland & Bruce, 2011; McDonough, 2005; National Association of College Admissions Counselors, 2004; Savitz-Romer, 2012 <sup>2</sup>National Association of College Admissions Counseling & ASCA, 2018; Woods & Domina, 2014

**Background** 

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7



8

01/22

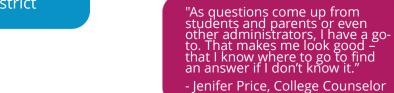


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# What educators say

"If I don't know the answer, I can quickly obtain it, as well as provide training for other counselors and staff members in my school."

Holly Moore, District College Advisor



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10

# **Digital Learning works**

For counselors, completing all TXOC modules is associated with the **same growth in knowledge** as 11-30 years of experience.





When educators use Texas OnCourse, they report that their **confidence in their knowledge** doubles.

11

# **Recognized nationally**





12

## **New infrastructure for THECB**

#### With Texas OnCourse THECB can:

- Build products that meet and exceed end-users' wants and needs.
  - A dedicated product management team
  - · Human-centered design processes
- Deliver learning opportunities that support program and policy implementation across K12 and higher education.
  - Over 18,000 educators and advisers already use Texas OnCourse
  - Modules for new programs and initiatives (transfer pathways- Field of Study Curricula)

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13

# **Bolstering success of other THECB** advising initiatives

- Connect ADVi knowledge base to TXOC content and resources processes and subject matter experts
- Support Apply Texas implementation with virtual training and webinar series
- Advance Advise Texas adviser training with the TXOC Academy
- Assess counselor and student college and career knowledge with a new assessment

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14



15