

Evaluation Report on Advise TX



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Background Information

Advise TX is an innovative near-peer college access program that aims to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college, and other underrepresented students who enter and complete higher education.

- CB partners with the College Advising Corps, Texas Higher Education Foundation (formerly the College for All Texans Foundation), University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin), Texas A&M University (TAMU), Texas Christian University (TCU), and Trinity University (Trinity).
- In 2017-18, the program included 112 advisers in 110 high schools across 44 districts in Texas.
- The CB received \$4 million for the biennium to implement the program.



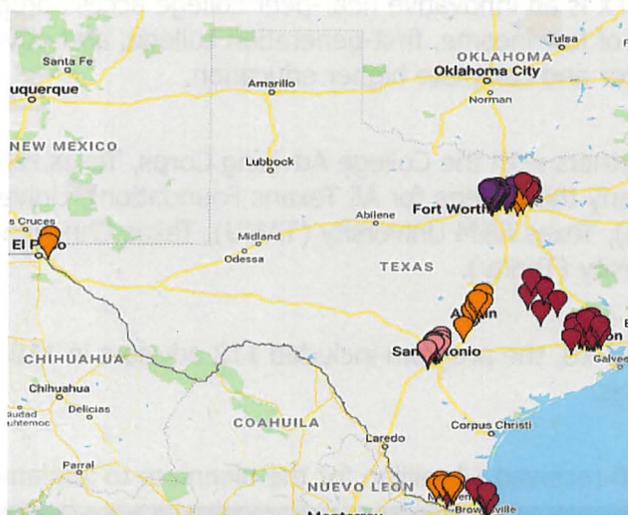
Program Summary

- Places recent university graduates on high school campuses as near-peer college advisers to lead low-income and first-generation students to postsecondary education.
- Advise TX advisers receive intensive training before serving in a high school, completing a four-to-six week practical curriculum that focuses on college access, college admissions, financial aid, student services, diversity, community service, and professionalism.
- Advise TX advisers work in collaboration with high school counselors, teachers, and administrators.

Advise TX Map

Advise TX

- 📍 Advise TX - TAMU
- 📍 Advising Corps - TCU
- 📍 Advise TX - UT
- 📍 Advising Corps - Trinity



Evaluation

- Rider 53, III-58, from the 85th Legislature, Regular Session, required the CB to provide a report to the Legislative Budget Board and the Office of the Governor.
- Dr. Eric Bettinger, Associate Professor at Stanford University and Evaluation and Assessment Solutions for Education (EASE) was selected to evaluate the impact of the Advise TX program on college-going rates.
- Focuses on five areas of research, including a randomized controlled trial (RCT) of Advise TX impact between 2012-16 and the programs impact on college enrollment and persistence, pathways to college, school culture, and advisers' attitudes and life choices.

Outcomes

- In 2017-2018, Advise TX advisers supported more than 40,000 high school seniors in applying to college and submitting more than 130,000 college applications in 8 regions and 46 school districts served by the program.
- For the class of 2017, advisers helped more than 29,000 seniors complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), thereby supporting students in being awarded \$476 million in institutional aid and scholarship dollars.

Cost-Benefit Analysis

- 11.1 additional students per high school attended community college as a result of Advise TX.
- Each school likely led to 1.0 new bachelor's degrees, 3.3 associate degrees, and 6.8 students with "some college."
- Per Advise TX adviser, the benefits of college generate a stream of about \$1.1 - \$1.8 million in lifetime gains.
- Internal rate of return of just over 7 percent

Quantitative Findings

- The program demonstrated an increase in college enrollment and persistence rates - average college enrollment rates increased by slightly over 2 percentage points for high schools served between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Advise TX increased college enrollment rates by more than 3 percentage points, especially for low-income students.
- The average persistence rate increased by 3 percentage points.

Qualitative Findings

- Schools where Advise TX is the only college access partner, 96 percent of high school counselors reported that the program has a significant or moderate effect on a schools' college-going culture.
- 80 percent of advisers felt satisfied or very satisfied with their overall experience and would recommend serving to others.
- Participation in the program yielded an increased likelihood of advisers both attending graduate school in the future and pursuing employment in the education sector, specifically.

Advise TX Report

Any Questions?