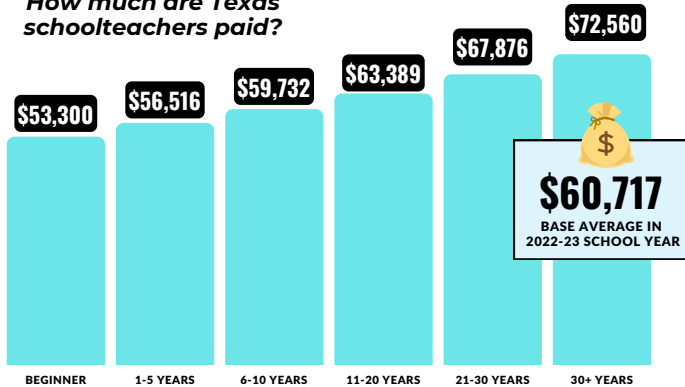


President's Report: Activity Update

Heading Back to School: Texas 2036 Focused on Education

About 5.5 million Texas schoolchildren are returning to classrooms this month. [Texas 2036 broke down the data](#) on why it is absolutely vital that we keep a laser focus on readiness for life after high school.

How much are Texas schoolteachers paid?



Source: Texas Education Agency, Aug. 13, 2024

Texas 2036, business leaders call for more transparency on state's school accountability system

Texas 2036 joined with prominent business leaders to call for [more transparency on school performance](#) measures after a judge temporarily delayed the release of A-F school ratings.

Two Texas 2036 staffers testify in support of education policy

Texas 2036 Policy Advisor **Gabe Grantham** [testified on Aug. 13](#) before the House Public Education Committee on the urgent need to improve math readiness.



Texas 2036 Policy Analyst **Mitrah Avini** provided [written testimony](#) on Aug. 12 on the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership (R-PEP) program.

Texas 2036 at Texas Association of Community Colleges



(Left to right) Mike Flores, Chancellor of Alamo Colleges; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College; and David Leebron at the Texas Association of Community Colleges' summer meeting in Austin in early August 2024.

Texas 2036 focused on community colleges this month and the tremendous progress that has been made since the community college finance reform bill passed last session.

To kick off the month, President and CEO **David Leebron** provided a [keynote](#), "Innovate to Elevate: Shaping the Future of Texas Community Colleges," at Texas Association of Community Colleges' summer meeting in Austin on Aug. 1.

Also: We focused [our newsletter](#) later that week on the role that community colleges are playing in shaping opportunity for all Texans.

David Op-Ed: David's opinion-editorial on ["Texas' investment in community colleges can be a national example of achievement"](#) ran in 11 papers across the Lone Star State in August.

Texas 2036 focused in on Houston

David Leebron spoke Aug. 20 at the **Greater Houston Partnership Board** meeting about the exciting opportunities in Houston to employ data and research to improve the lives of all Texans.

“ I'm more convinced than ever that Houston has the potential to lead in ways that extend opportunity to all — providing the skilled workforce, energy resources, infrastructure and technological innovation that will shape our state's future.”

David Leebron

Texas 2036 in the Community

Our team made several stops across the state this month to speak about our work. Here's where we've been:

Aug. 1: Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy **John Hryhorchuk** participated in a panel on environmental and natural resources law at the 36th Annual Texas Environmental Superconference for the State Bar of Texas in Austin.

Aug. 8: Senior Vice President of Strategy and Operations **Justin Coppedge** participated in a panel about water supply issues and how communities in Texas are tackling water availability challenges at an infrastructure summit hosted by the North Texas Commission and the city of Irving in Irving.

Aug. 9: Senior Policy Advisor **Jeremy Mazur** spoke to the East Texas Chamber Policy Committee regarding the need for a sustained funding strategy for addressing Texas' long-term water infrastructure challenges.

Aug. 19: Senior Policy Advisor **Mary Lynn Pruneda** joined the Texas Public Policy Foundation podcast about how parents can use state education data.

Aug. 20: **Jeremy Mazur** participated in a panel discussion with other water leaders on the importance of regional solutions for addressing water crises at the Deep South Texas State of Water Symposium in Pharr.

Aug. 20: Vice President of Data and Analytics **Dr. Holly Heard** hosted the quarterly meeting of Texas 2036's Research Advisory Committee, and welcomed Dr. Rabi Mohtar of Texas A&M to the group. Members provided insights on current research projects such as Classroom to Career and Justice-Involved Texans.

Aug. 23: Data Analyst **Carlos Navarro** spoke to the Asset Funders Network about Economic Mobility Data. Participants shared information on the metrics each is tracking related to economic opportunity.

Aug. 27: Policy Advisor **Emily Brizzolara-Dove** submitted written testimony to the House Human Services Committee in support of implementation of HB 1575, which will improve services and case management for pregnant women enrolled in Medicaid.



Photo: Senior Vice President of Policy and Advocacy John Hryhorchuk at the 36th Annual Texas Environmental Superconference for the State Bar of Texas in Austin on Aug. 1.



'Far Out' Visitor: Texas 2036 welcomed the Executive Director of the Texas Space Commission Norman Roy Garza Jr. (far right) to our Austin office on Aug. 3 to discuss Texas' future in space.

Texas 2036 in the News

In August, Texas 2036 continued to add to our growing list of 329 media stories published in more than 170 outlets this year. This month, our work was featured in 95.5 KLAQ-FM, the Associated Press, Daily Kos, etc.

Here's a sampling of the news stories:

- Corpus Christi Caller-Times - ["Kingsville ISD, school districts seek to delay school accountability ratings again"](#)
- Texas Tribune - ["Texas' youngest students are struggling with their learning, educators say"](#)
- Texas Tribune - ["Donald Trump's promise to 'drill, baby, drill' probably won't change much — least of all in Texas"](#)
- Work Shift - ["At the Frontier of College Funding, Texas Is Finding its Footing"](#)



Texas 2036 Weekly Free Policy Insights Newsletter Reaches New Milestone – 20,000 Subscribers!

Texas 2036 op-ed featured in Dallas Morning News

Texas 2036's **Jeremy Mazur** wrote an opinion that was featured in the [Dallas Morning News](#) on Aug. 21.

"Will extreme weather set the next legislative agenda again?" discussed how Texas needs policies aligned toward long-term resilience.

“State lawmakers will have a choice: they can either adopt policies reactive to the problems identified after each disaster, or pursue a path toward greater resilience that protects citizens from future harm.”

Jeremy Mazur

Texas 2036 policy team welcomes Jordan Wat

Texas 2036 is excited to announce Jordan Wat as its new Director of Government Affairs.

