

Advise TX

Advise TX College Advising Corps launched in 2010-2011 and works to increase the number of low-income, first-generation college, and underrepresented high school students who enter and complete a postsecondary education. The program model utilizes near-peer advisers by placing well-trained recent college graduates from four Texas partner institutions of higher education as full-time college advisers in high schools with historically low college-going rates. Through the Corporation for National and Community Service and the OneStar Foundation, advisers serve one to two years as full-time AmeriCorps members and provide one-on-one assistance to students to match their academic and career goals to the best postsecondary options that will help them achieve their dream.

In 2016-2017, a total of **231,361** students were enrolled in high schools in **eight** regions and **49** school districts that were served by **112** advisers across Texas. Advisers serve in **112** high schools in Texas and advise a total population of **106,683** juniors and seniors. To date this academic year (2016-2017), advisers held **216,718** one-on-one meetings with students exploring postsecondary options. More than **83%** of all seniors met with an adviser at least once. Advisers held **10,131** parent meetings and **36,874** group meetings that included **49,562** seniors. Advisers helped distribute **24,855** ACT/SAT fee waivers, distributed **32,507** college application fee waivers saving students approximately **\$1.7 million** in application fees. Advisers took **11,007** students on campus visits and hosted **36,612** college admission rep visits.

Participating schools: Since 2010-2011, Advise TX College Advising Corps programs have served more than 165 high schools, and have consistently served 74 of those high schools since 2011-2012.

Best fit planning: Advisers serve the whole school, with a sole focus on planning for education beyond high school. They help each student identify education options that best fit the career and academic goals of the individual, whether achieving those goals requires earning a certification, an associate's degree, or a baccalaureate degree.

One-on-one assistance: Advisers provide guidance on how to research, select, and apply to colleges, help with completion of financial aid (FAFSA/TASFA) applications; provide feedback on college essays, help interpret and compare financial aid award letters, and host meetings with parents and families.

School events: Advisers coordinate college admission representative visits to high schools, coordinate visits to college campuses; make classroom and assembly presentations, and coordinate "Decision Day/College Signing Day" events each spring to celebrate and recognize student's postsecondary plans. These, and other activities coordinated by advisers, promote a college-going culture.

Working partnerships: The Advise TX College Advise Corps programs are anchored at the following institutions: Texas A&M University, Texas Christian University, Trinity University, and The University of Texas at Austin. Collectively, the institutions have 112 college advisers serving 112 high schools across the State. Advisers are supported by both public and private entities including College Advising Corps, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Corporation for National and Community Service, and the OneStar Foundation.

Measuring impact: The Advise TX College Advising Corps is evaluated annually by Dr. Eric Bettinger, Associate Professor, at Stanford University. His team of researchers compiles and analyzes student key performance indicator data, administers student and adviser surveys, conducts focus groups and site visits, and analyzes student outcomes including college enrollment rates.

Outcomes: Compared to seniors at similar Texas high schools, students with an Advise TX College Advising Corps adviser were more likely to complete an AP course, more likely to take the SAT exam, and more likely to submit their FAFSA. Furthermore, students who have met with an Advise TX College Advising Corps adviser are more likely to aspire to go to college, participate in college-prep activities, apply to colleges, be accepted to college, and be committed to enrolling in college.