

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Texas. The seal contains a five-pointed star in the center, surrounded by a wreath of olive and live oak branches. The words "STATE OF TEXAS" are inscribed around the perimeter of the seal.

Highly Mobile and At-Risk Student Programs Unit Quarterly #4 Webinar

Thursday, May 7, 2026
1:00pm – 2:30pm



**OFFICE OF SPECIAL
POPULATIONS &
STUDENT SUPPORTS**

TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY

Highly Mobile and At-Risk (HMAR) Student Programs

**Texas Education for
Homeless Children
& Youth (TEHCY)**

At-Risk Programs

**Foster Care (FC)
Pregnancy-Related Services (PRS)**

**Military
Connected
Students (MCS)**

Webinar Objectives and Agenda

Provide updates, reminders, and key action items for staff to understand throughout the school year as new students enroll or are newly identified in one of the highly mobile student categories.

Agenda

- Introduction and HMAR Announcement
- Guest Speaker: Texas Challenge Academy
- Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program
- At-Risk (Foster Care, Pregnancy-Related) Program
- Military-Connected Student Program
- HMAR Closing Remarks

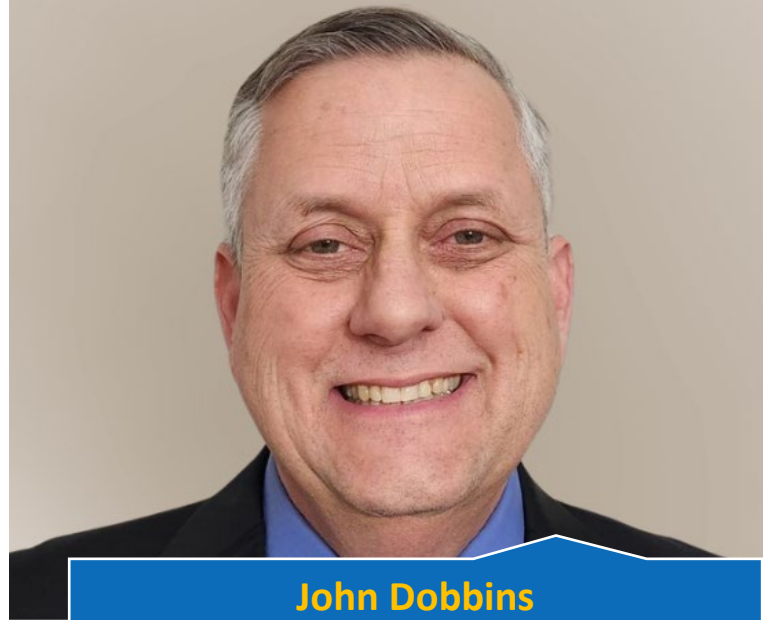


Highly Mobile & At-Risk (**HMAR**) Student Programs Unit



Dr. Ann H. Lê
Manager

Military-Connected Students Program



John Dobbins
TEHCY State Coordinator

TEHCY Program



Anne Caldwell
At-Risk State Coordinator

At-Risk (Foster Care/PRS) Program

♥ Welcome ♥
to the Team

Excited to Introduce Today's Guest Speakers!

David P. De Mers

Program Director of Texas ChalleNGe Academy in Eagle Lake, Texas.

BS in Psychology with 20 years of leadership with both non-profit and government Youth Development programs.

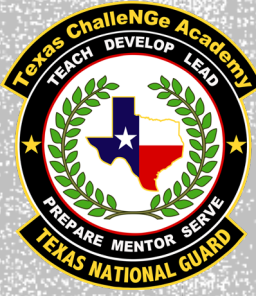
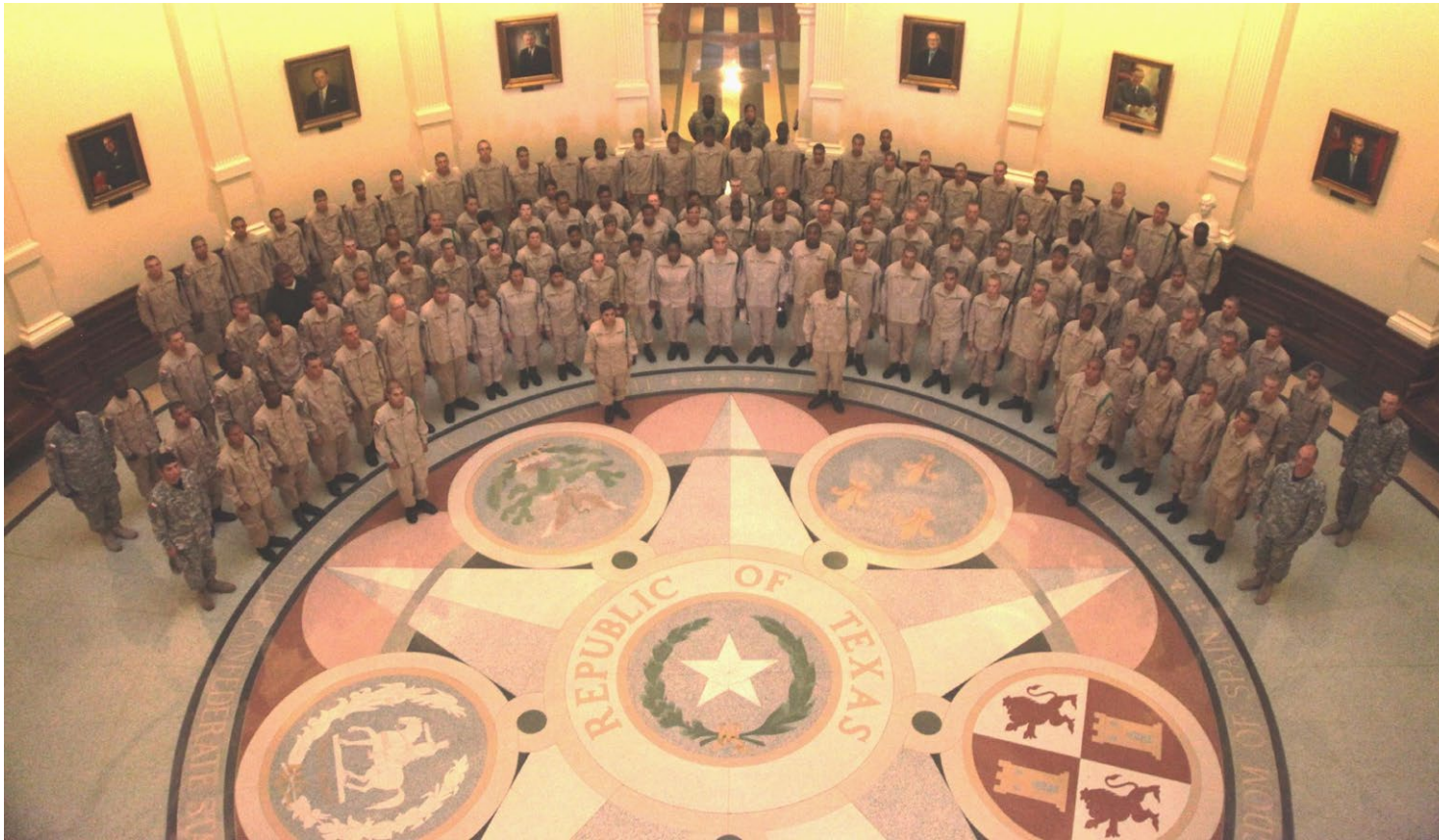
Brings a Trauma Informed Care approach to each program he serves.

A US Army Veteran who lives in Columbus, TX with his wife Monique and daughter Savannah.



TCA Mission Statement: The mission of the Texas ChalleNGe Academy is to reclaim the potential of at-risk youth through education, training, mentoring and service to the community.

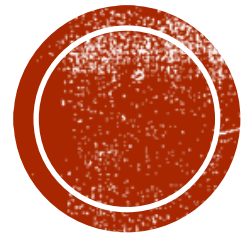
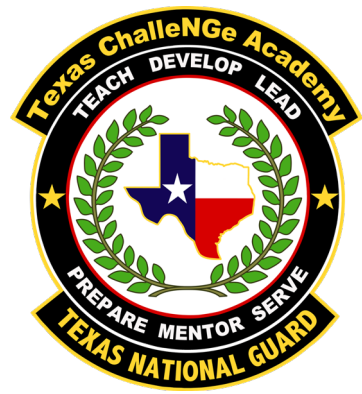
TCA Vision Statement: The vision of the Texas ChalleNGe Academy is to be recognized as the state's premier program for the alternative education of at-risk youth and high school dropouts.



TEXAS CHALLENGE ACADEMY

Mission & Vision

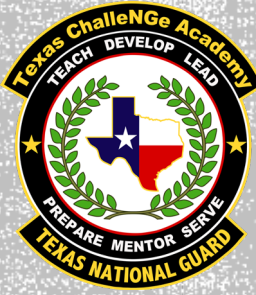




FUNDING

- \$1,544,500 Texas State Funding
 - (25% State Match) – \$1,500,000
 - (75%) Federal Match – \$4,500,000
 - Remaining State funds – \$ 54,500
 - USDA funds (projected) – \$ 251,500
 - Total budget – \$6,243,000





TEXAS CHALLENGE ACADEMY

Historical Numbers

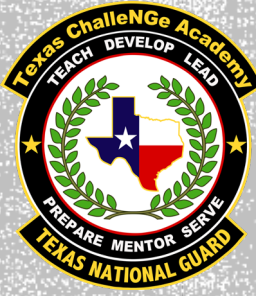
1999 - Present

13,383 Applied

7,964 Accepted

4,680 Completed Program





TEXAS CHALLENGE ACADEMY

Eagle Lake Campus

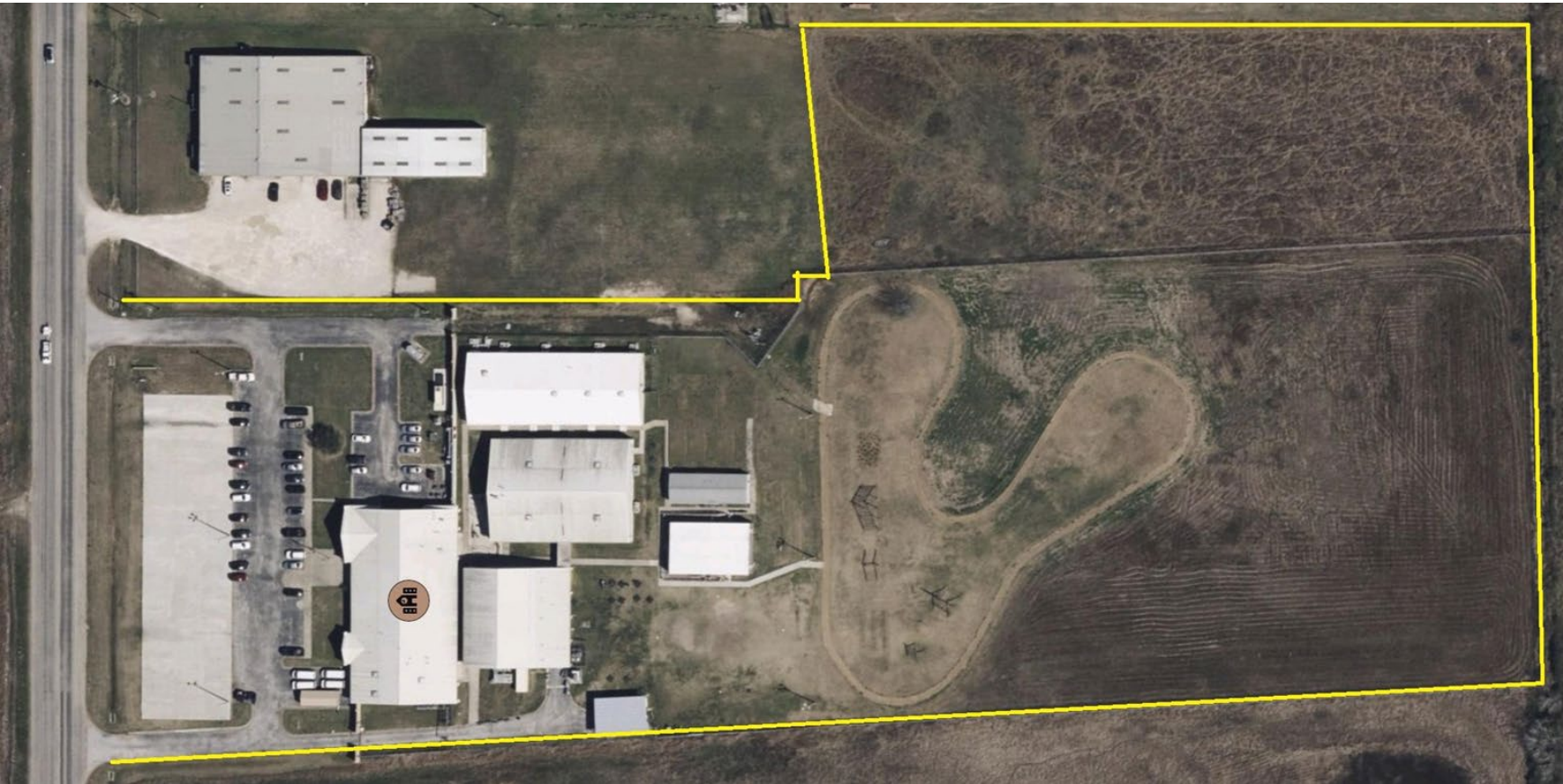
Campus Layout

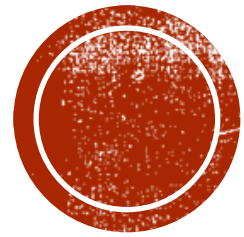
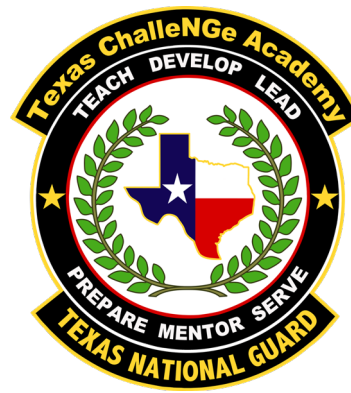
132 – 152 Capacity

3 Platoons

Males (100-120)

Female (32)

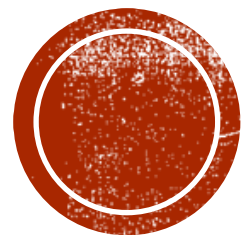
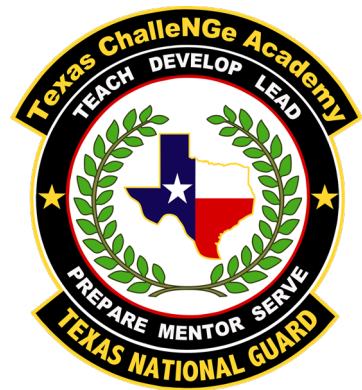




8 CORE COMPONENTS

- Academic Excellence
- Leadership Followership
- Physical Fitness
- Responsible Citizenship
- Service to Community
- Life Coping Skills
- Job Skills
- Health & Hygiene

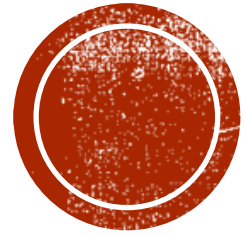
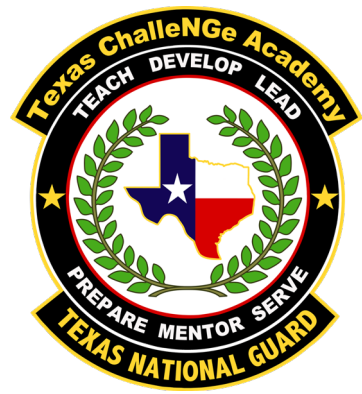




Academic Excellence/Service to Community

- Credit Recovery
- High School Diploma (22 credits)
- GED
- Service-Learning Projects
- Local/surrounding communities
- 40 Hours



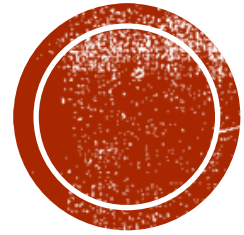
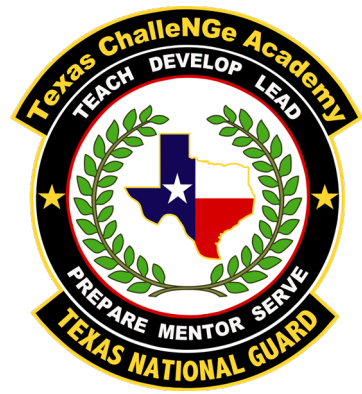


Leadership/Followership & Life Coping Skills

- Cadet Promotions
- Leadership opportunities
- Self/Team

- Job readiness skills
- Curriculum based classes
- PRAP



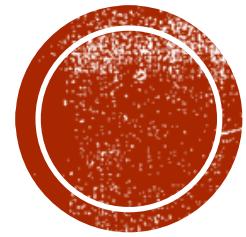
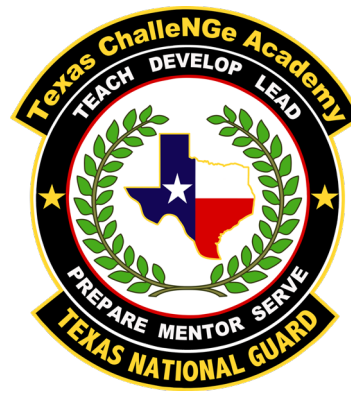


Physical Fitness/Job Skills

- Daily Workouts
- PT Tests
- Smart habits

- Resume Writing
- Mock Interviews
- Curriculum based learning

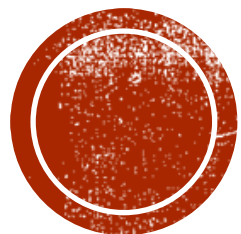
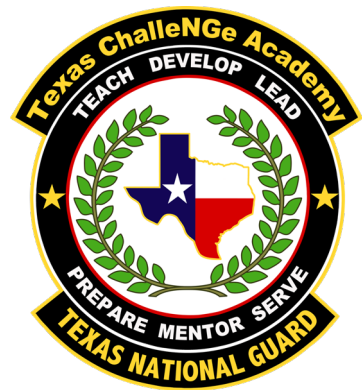




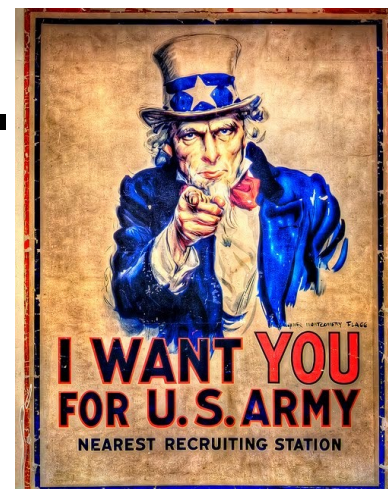
Responsible Citizenship/Health & Hygiene

- U.S. Gov't Structure
- Individual Rights/Responsibilities
- Selective Service & Voter Registration
- Classes on hygiene, nutrition, & substance abuse prevention
- Healthy Habits
- Curriculum based learning





What TCA is not....



TCA is not a:

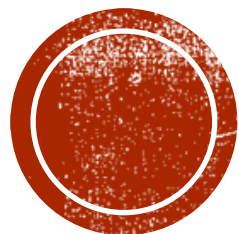
- Juvenile Correction or Lock-down Facility
- Therapeutic Mental Health Facility
- Educational Miracle Maker
- Scared straight or boot camp
- Military Recruitment Organization

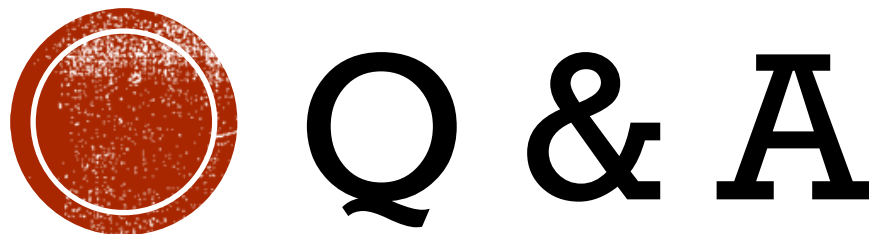
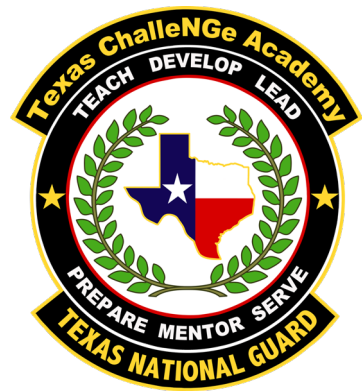
TCA is:

- A highly challenging residential program
- Quasi-military structured and rigorous
- An emotionally challenging environment
- Likely the hardest thing your child has ever experienced
- Life Changing



For more information, Follow our social media and website





Director – Presenter
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979-232-0522

Recruiter – Point of Contact
Alexondria Pinchback
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979.234.3531, ext. 2007



Updates from the HMAR Programs



Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY)

End-of-Year Review & Reflection

- Review McKinney-Vento identification procedures, services, and outcomes
- Analyze district data, EOY surveys, and student trends
- Identify gaps in services, barriers to access, and areas for growth

Retention & Review of Homeless Student Rosters (Best Practices)

- Maintain EOY rosters of students coded as homeless
- Consider establishing a process to review and re-determine eligibility at the start of the new school year, as codes do not roll over automatically

Program Needs & Resource Planning

- Use program assessments to inform funding and resource requests
- Document transportation, staffing, training, and supply needs

Community Partnerships

- Review effectiveness of current community partnerships
- Connect with agencies serving students and families experiencing homelessness
- Coordinate services and referrals for summer and upcoming school year

Student Continuity & Summer Planning

- Ensure enrollment and access to summer school and programming
- Plan for continuity of services, transportation, and records
- Prepare transition supports for highly mobile students

Preparation for the Upcoming School Year

- Update procedures, identification strategies, and outreach materials
- Plan staff training and awareness for the new school year

School of Origin

Develop LEA policies and procedures to support implementation of School of Origin transportation services

Include School of Origin program services and procedures in your annual McKinney-Vento trainings

Review intake forms to assess:

What services were already provided?

What items were requested but not available?

How often do families contact you for additional services and supports?

Review Intake Form (Example of Intake Form)



Services Provided at Intake	
SERVICES	
Assist w/participation in Title I Parent Programs	
Birth certificate	
Basic needs/Hygiene kit	
Community agency referral	
Consultation with McKinney-Vento staff	
Emergency clothing or referral	
Emergency food or referral	
Emergency shelter referral	
Emergency utility assistance referral	
Enrollment assistance	
Family support services (counseling and social work)	
Immunizations or immunization records	
Non-emergency housing referral	
Nutrition - School Lunch	
Parent education: Community Ed/ESL	
Parent education: FIT Letter/Pamphlet	
Referrals: medical, dental, other	
School records	
School supplies	
Transportation (school of origin)	
Transportation (accessing services)	
Other services not listed above:	

Verification Letter for Unaccompanied Homeless Youth for the Purposes of Federal Financial Aid

Student Name: (Student's Full Name)

DOB: (Month/Date/Year)

SSN: (###-##-###)

I am providing this letter of verification as the (District Name) McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaison.

As per the College Cost Reduction and Access Act (Public Law 110-84), I am authorized to verify this student's living situation. Should you have additional questions or need more information about this student, please contact me at the number listed below.

This letter is to confirm that (Student's Full Name) was an unaccompanied homeless youth after July 1, (Current School Year).

This means that, after July 1, (Current School Year), (Student's Full Name) was living in a homeless situation, as defined by Section 725 of the McKinney-Vento Act, and was not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

Name (LEA Designated McKinney-Vento Liaison)
Title
District Address
Phone Number
Email Address

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Liaisons must ensure students who are experiencing homelessness:

- Are informed of their independent status for the purpose of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

McKinney-Vento Professional development



Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth

Resources and services to ensure that all Texas children living in homeless situations have the opportunity to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school.

Professional Development

Search

MARCH 24, 2026

Building Stability for Students Experiencing Homelessness: A Legal a...

This in-person presentation was held during the 2026 GCA Institute in Round Rock, TX and Spring 2026 ACET Conference in Houston, TX.

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

NOVEMBER 2, 2025

Building Bridges, Not Barriers: Statewide Collaboration to Reduce...

This in-person presentation was held during the 2025 National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth (NAEHCY) Conference in Dallas, TX.

[VIEW DETAILS](#)

OCTOBER 6, 2025

Empowering Charter Schools: McKinney Vento 101 (TPCSA Conference)

"Empowering Charter Schools" was an in-person training held during the Texas Public Charter Schools Conference in Houston, TX on October 6, 2025.

[VIEW DETAILS](#)



Centralized, self-paced McKinney-Vento training supporting understating identification, removal of barriers and requirements for school system staff.



Principals, Administrators, School Counselors & Designated Liaisons



Registrars, Nutrition Coordinators, & Transportation Specialists

End-of-Year Support from ESC Regional Homeless Liaisons

Professional Development

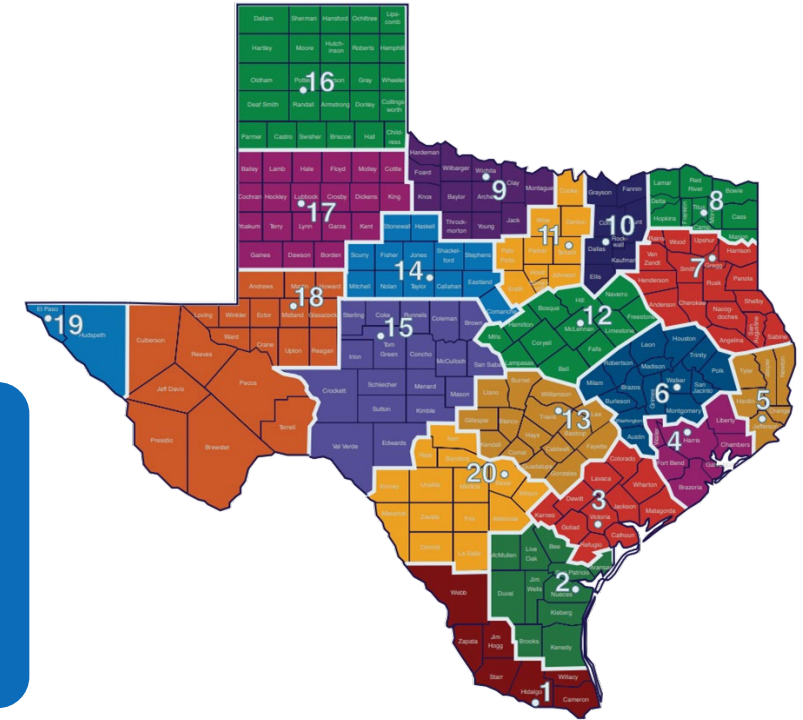
- Share summer & early fall training opportunities
- Support onboarding for new liaisons and staff

Technical Assistance

- Assist with end of year compliance and data review
- Provide guidance on graduation, transitions, and summer continuity

Resources & Supports

- Distribute summer resources for students and families
- Share tools to support school stability and transitions



TEHCY Support Activity Snapshot (Sept. 30, 2025 – Mar. 31, 2026)

Intakes Received (Q1 & Q2)

1363

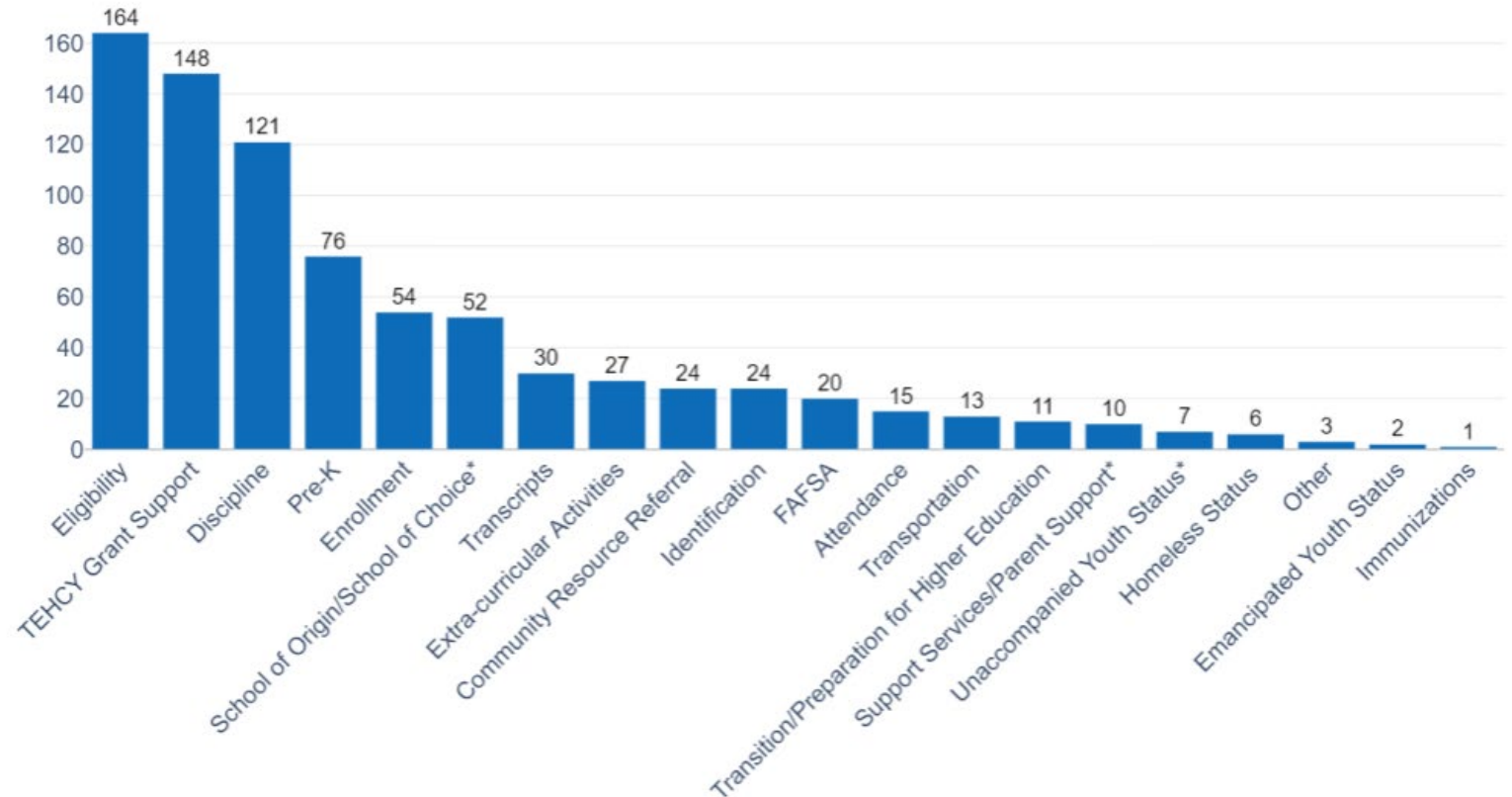
Intakes Resolved (Q1 & Q2)

1359

In-Progress Intakes (Q1 & Q2)

4

Primary Request Categories



TEHCY Support Inquiries by Intake Method and Region

Email Intakes

145

ESC Direct Intakes

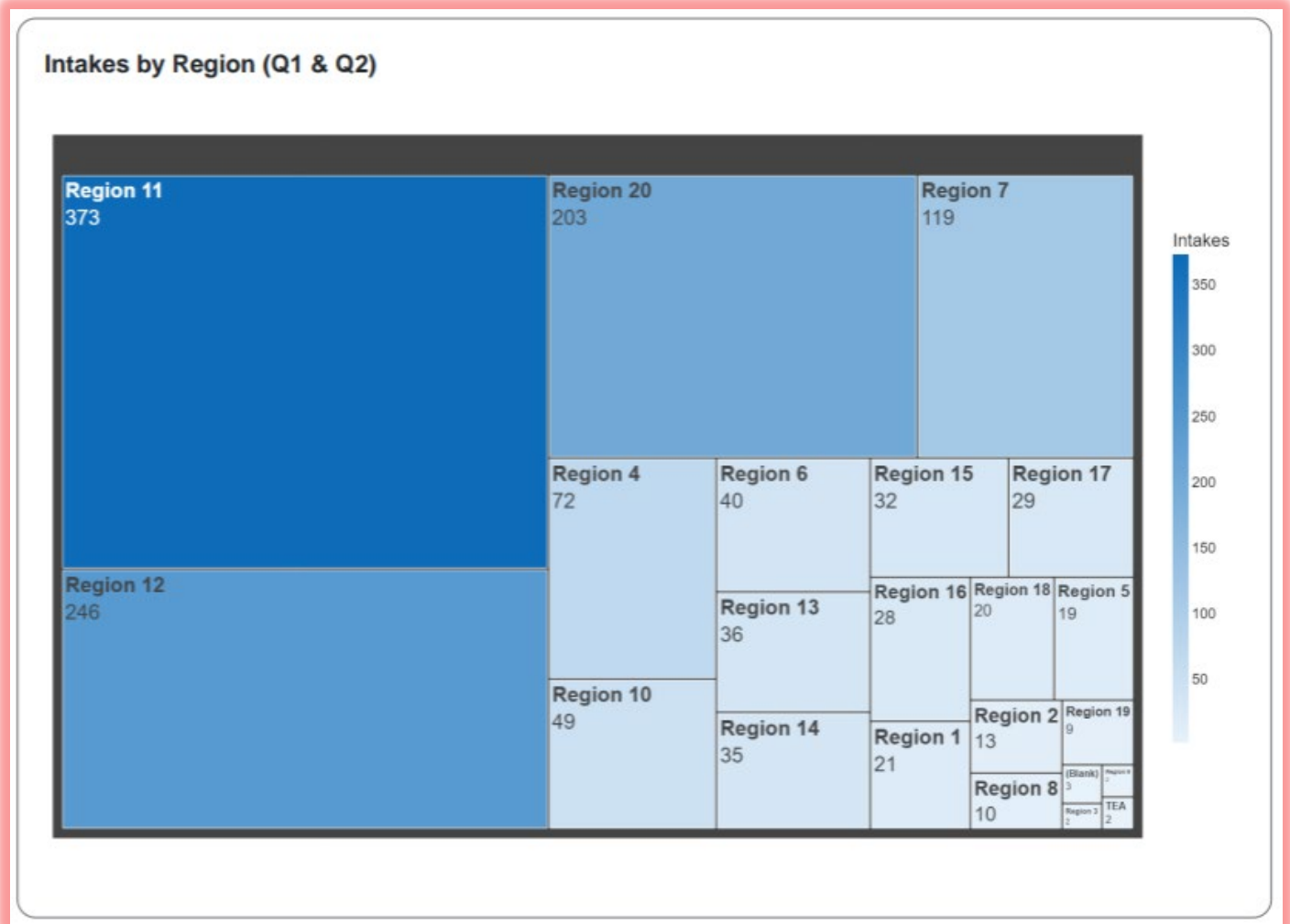
1008

1-800 Line Intakes

76

Public Form Intakes

134





GRANTEE REMINDERS: TEHCY Grant Deadlines



23-24 TEHCY Continuation Grant

Event	Reporting Period	Due Date
Application Availability Date	-	06/28/2023
Application Due Date	-	08/28/2023
Last Amendment Due Date	-	06/02/2026
Revised Final Expenditure Report	09/01/2023-08/31/2026	11/29/2026
Final Expenditure Report	09/01/2023-08/31/2026	11/29/2026

EOY Report due November 27, 2026 (29th is a Sunday)

25-26 TEHCY Continuation Grant

Event	Reporting Period	Due Date
ADC Availability Date	-	06/24/2025
Application Availability Date	-	06/24/2025
Application Due Date	-	08/29/2025
Last Amendment Due Date	-	06/02/2026
Revised Final Expenditure Report	09/01/2025-08/31/2026	11/29/2026
Final Expenditure Report	09/01/2025-08/31/2026	11/29/2026

EOY Report due November 27, 2026 (29th is a Sunday)



GRANTEE REMINDERS: Carryover & Communications



There will be **no carryover** fund after August 31, 2026



Monthly Grant emails will be sent to all grantees



The 2026-27 Continuation Grant available: June 24, 2026

Greetings Grantee,

I am contacting you to check in on your expenditures for 2025-2026 Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY)-Continuation Grant. As a reminder, one of the expectations of this program is for you to submit invoices on a monthly or quarterly basis to ensure that you are on track to spend the funds and carry out activities according to the established timelines.

This is a friendly reminder that funds are available for obligation until August 31, 2026 and that all allowable expenditures obligated during the project period must be liquidated within 90 days from August 31, 2026, the Project End Date.

Please view the following data for the [current status](#) of expenditures for this project to ensure you are on track with expectations. *[Optional: Please forward to your business office to align on the information displayed below, if applicable.]*

Date information was obtained: March 11, 2026

Total Award Amount: \$95,740.00

Remaining Award Amount: \$82,656.70

Project End Date: August 31, 2026

Deadline to Submit Invoices: Typically, 90 days from the Project End Date

I recognize that this information does not reflect invoices that were submitted after the date this information was obtained, or invoices that were submitted but payment is still pending.

If you anticipate that the Total Award Amount will not be obligated by the Project End Date, please notify me with an explanation and estimate of the amount you will not be spending so we can make necessary adjustments, as applicable.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need assistance. Thank you!



GRANTEE REMINDERS: Navigating TEA's Grants Opportunities Page



Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

How to Guidance on Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grants Opportunities Page

This guide provides a step-by-step walkthrough for navigating the Texas Education Agency (TEA) Grant Opportunities website to locate active and/or past Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Grants. This resource includes screenshots and detailed instructions to assist users in accessing grant information and completing the application process.

Step 1: Accessing the TEA Grant Opportunities Website

1. Open your web browser and go to the [TEA Grant Opportunities page](#).
2. This page serves as the central hub for all state and federal grants administered by TEA.

Step 2: Using the Search Options

1. Scroll to the "Search Options" section.
2. Under the "Keyword(s) in Application Name," type in 'homeless'.

3. All available grants will be listed in the "Search Results – Available Grant Opportunities" table.
 - a. **Name of the Grant Application:** The active school year for each grant is indicated in the name of the grant
 - b. **Availability Date:** Refers to the date when the application opens for applicants.
 - c. **Due Date:** The deadline for submitting the application.

TEHCY Grants | 1

Grant Start Date	Grant End Date	Fund Type	CTDA #	Percent	Amount
08/29/2024	08/29/2026	1418-01	2418A	100.00	\$1,011,910.00
Total Funding Available					\$1,011,910.00



Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

Specifies the category or type of grant application. Indicates the method of submission, either via PDF or through the eGrants portal.

Click on the magnifying icon under 'View' next to each grant's name. For 2025-2026 Texas Education of Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY)-

essential details about the grant program to help applicants understand its

Summarizes the goals, objectives, and intended outcomes of the grant

can apply by outlining the specific criteria and qualifications required.

identifies the legal basis and regulations that govern the grant program.

the total funding available (amounts funded to each grantee will vary), start and end date, and fund type (Federal or State.)

TEHCY Grants | 1

Grant Start Date	Grant End Date	Fund Type	CTDA #	Percent	Amount
08/29/2024	08/29/2026	1418-01	2418A	100.00	\$1,011,910.00
Total Funding Available					\$1,011,910.00



Accessing TEHCY Grants on TEA's Grant's Opportunities Page

Step 4: Accessing and Submitting the Application

For Paper Applications (PDF)

1. Under 'Application and Support Information,' click on Application Part 1 (PDF) and Application Part 2 (Excel)

Application Part 1 (PDF)
Application Part 2 (Excel)

2. Please note the instructions on how to submit on the Application Part 1 PDF:

SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

This application must be submitted via email to grantapplications@tea.texas.gov by 11:59 p.m. CT, September 23, 2025.

Both Application Part 1 (PDF) and Application Part 2 (Excel) are required when submitting. The application may be signed with a digital ID, or it may be signed by hand and scanned. Then submit via email.

For eGrants

1. Log into the TEA eGrants system using your TEAL account. (If you do not already have access, you will need to request access in TEAL.)

2. Navigate to the GS2000 application for the TEHCY Continuation Grant.
3. Complete all required fields and upload supporting documents.
4. Submit the application electronically before the due date.

Additional Resources for Grants

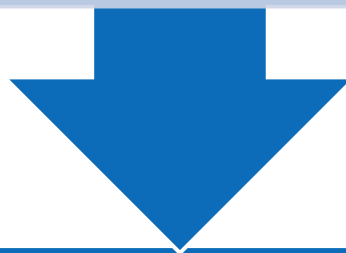
1. **Federal and State Monthly Drawdown Interactive Dashboards:** View interactive dashboards for monthly federal and state grant awards, updated regularly to show total award amounts, remaining funds, and percentages.
2. **Applying for a Grant | Texas Education Agency:** Learn how to apply for federal and state education grants through TEA, including guidelines, eligibility, deadlines, and access to eGrants resources
3. **Division Contacts:** For grant-related questions (e.g., amendments, negotiations, status, etc.), please contact your grant negotiator.

Grant's Goals and Objectives

Enhance cohesion & alignment with state strategies and MV requirements.

Expand regional capacity via ESC MV liaison support and best practice implementation.

Improve student outcomes through targeted interventions, progress monitoring, and family engagement tools.



Produce accessible, statewide resources that improve district practices and elevate support for students experiencing homelessness



At-Risk Programs (Foster Care, PRS)

Successfully
**Closing Out
the School
Year**

Important
Reminder:
**Transition
Assistance**
for Students
and Families

Strategic
Planning for
the
**Upcoming
School Year**

Honoring
National
**Foster Care
Awareness
Month**

Successfully Closing Out the School Year

- Meetings with 11th and 12th Grade Students in Foster Care to Explore Post-Secondary Opportunities
- Provide FAFSA completion support for graduating 12th-grade students, as FAFSA completion is a state **graduation requirement** for all students.





Transition Assistance for Students and Families

*“School districts and open-enrollment charter schools **must** provide **professional development opportunities and resources** to support key staff members such as principals, registrars, counselors, designated liaisons, nutrition coordinators, and transportation specialists on **local processes and procedures for facilitating successful school transitions** for students who are homeless or in substitute care.”*

[§89.1605\(c\)](#)



REMINDER: Transition Assistance Toolkit



TEA
Texas Education Agency

Nutrition Benefits

TAC § 89.1605(a)(3)

All students who are identified as homeless or in foster care are eligible for the US Department of Agriculture Child Nutrition Program.

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must ensure there is an expedited process in place for all students who qualify to receive nutrition benefits upon enrollment. The process must expedite communication with the LEA nutrition coordinator to ensure that eligible students are not charged in error or experience delays in receiving these benefits.

Best Practices

- Appropriate LEA or campus staff should immediately notify food services when a new student enrolls.
- Verify student coding is in alignment with effective date.
- Ensure student confidentiality.
- Collaborate with your Nutrition Coordinator to establish processes, such as sending an approval notification via email.
- LEAs should provide annual training to new and returning staff on nutrition eligibility and application processes.

REMINDER: Applications must be expedited when the student qualifies for SNAP benefits. Ensure systems and supports are student and family-centered!

TEA
Texas Education Agency

Enrollment Conferences

TAC § 89.1605(b)

Local Education Agencies must convene an enrollment conference with a student who is homeless or in foster care within the first two weeks, or as soon as feasible, after a student who is homeless or in substitute care enrolls at a new school. The student's participation in the meeting should be addressed on a case-by-case basis. The convening cannot delay or impede enrollment.

The enrollment conference may be used in conjunction with an existing meeting that is designed for a similar purpose for newly enrolled students.

An **Enrollment Conference** is a student-centered meeting for a newly enrolled student designed to:

- Identify academic and extracurricular interests.
- Review credits and assessment information.
- Introduce school processes and opportunities for engagement.
- Determine social-emotional support.
- Develop course and instructional strategies.
- Communicate confidential information that may impact a student's success, if needed.

Key People to Consider Including:

- School Administrators
- McKinney-Vento Liaisons
- Foster Care Liaisons
- School Counselors

Others to Include*:

LEA AND CAMPUS STAFF	COMMUNITY SUPPORT
» Special Program Staff (e.g., Special Education, Emergent Bilingual, Gifted and Talented, etc.)	» Parent or Guardian
» Teachers	» Relative or Foster Placement Caregiver
» Social Workers	» Texas DFPS Caseworker
» Dropout Prevention Specialist	» DFPS Educational Decision Maker
» Attendance/Trajectory Officer	» CASA Volunteer

*Additional people may be invited, as needed.
**Discussion topics are required in TAC § 89.1605(b)(3) and should be adapted to meet the unique needs of each student.

TEA
Texas Education Agency

Student Welcome Packet Requirements and Best Practices

TAC § 89.1605(a)(1)

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) must provide welcome packets to students who are homeless or in foster care within the first two weeks of enrollment. LEAs may include the required welcome packet contents with any existing items being provided to new students.

Welcome Packet Required Items:

- Extracurricular activities (e.g., fine arts, athletics, etc.)
- Club activities
- Information on fee waivers
- Tutoring opportunities
- Student code of conduct
- Available student supports
- Contact information for pertinent school staff
- Contact information for key school staff members:
 - School counselors
 - Nurses
 - Social workers
 - Foster Care Liaison
 - McKinney-Vento Liaison
 - Principal & Assistant Principals
 - Registrars
 - Nutrition coordinators
 - Transportation specialists
 - Additional support staff (e.g., Special Education, Emergent Bilingual, Gifted and Talented, 504 programs, Pregnancy Related Services)

Additional Foster Care and McKinney-Vento Items:

- Student clubs
- After school programs
- Enrichment programs
- Mentor programs
- Family engagement opportunities
- Student ambassador programs
- Post-secondary planning activities
- Summer and holiday resources
- Other community resources available in your area (e.g., FindHelp.org)

TEA
Texas Education Agency

School Introductions to Ease Transitions

TAC § 89.1605(a)(2)

School introductions are welcoming activities provided by the school to new students. Staff can introduce students to the school in a variety of ways, such as giving tours of the campus, hosting welcome events, and providing one-on-one student support. These activities can help students acclimate to their new environment, adjust academically, meet new friends, and participate in extracurricular activities. While LEAs are required to provide introductions to students who are homeless or in foster care, these supports are beneficial for easing the transitions of all newly enrolled students.

Strategies to Ease Transitions

- Provide introductions (e.g., staff introductions, campus tours, activities, welcome events, etc.) within two weeks of enrollment.
- Implement mentoring programs in which staff or community mentors can facilitate introductions, have lunch with students, and check-in with students throughout the day.
- Provide information on peer-to-peer programs, such as student-led activities, clubs, programs, extracurriculars, etc.
- Designate a staff member to whom the student can reach out for support and services. This person provides a safe space for the student to share any concerns, needs, or life changes.

Key Contacts

- Campus staff members.
- Staff members who have been designated as student mentors.
- Community mentor sponsor. Student-led groups.
- Student ambassadors and faculty sponsors.

Student Ambassadors

Student ambassadors are students who represent the school and introduce new students to the campus and its culture. Student ambassadors are familiar with the campus environment and have a positive attitude, great communication skills, leadership qualities, and are accepting of others. Student ambassadors can organize and/or participate in the following activities:

- Newcomer social events throughout the school year.
- Tours of the campus library, nurse's office, counseling office, gym, and cafeteria.
- Accompanying new students to lunch during the first week of school.



View Transition Assistance Webinars on YouTube
[Transition Assistance Part I](#); [Transition Assistance Part II](#)

Strategic Planning for the Upcoming School Year



Submit or update the School System (LEA) Foster Care Liaison's contact information in the AskTED system



Maintain ongoing communication and collaboration with the DFPS Education Specialist



Systemwide Foster Care Training: registrars, nutrition services, transportation staff, administrators, school counselors, and other relevant personnel



Ensure accurate and timely documentation to support proper PEIMS foster care identification



Enrollment Conference & Welcome Packet Planning



UT Austin is launching the **Texas Foster Youth Network**; a new statewide effort designed to better support young people who have aged out of foster care as they transition into adulthood.



A **centralized hotline and resource network** that will connect former foster youth to:

Workforce and employment supports

Postsecondary education resources

Short-term case management and navigation assistance



The hotline will be **staffed by individuals with lived foster care experience**, ensuring trauma-informed, peer-based support.

Honoring National Foster Care Awareness Month (MAY)



Educators play a critical role in supporting the academic success and well-being of students in Foster Care!

Thank you for the important work you do daily to assist students impacted by foster care.



MAY IS

National *Foster Care* Month

Learn More About
Foster Care & Student Success:
tea.texas.gov/fostercare



Foster Care Month Toolkit: [Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)



Military Connected Students Program Updates

🌟 Share one celebration, partnership, or student voice highlight they're especially proud of.

📷 If you shared photos or posts on social media, feel free to drop links or highlights in the chat.



Suggested Activities: May and Summer 2026



Review **Military Student Identifier process** and identify any enhancement or improvement needed.



Ensure district and campus **webpage for military families** are updated with Fall enrollment and registration resources, calendars, and supports.



Schedule and provide district & campus **professional development on supporting military-connected students**, including MSI/PEIMS Identification.



Review **PSCD rubric** and **annual calendar** to identify opportunities for strengthening program implementation for the following school year.

Recognizes campuses for demonstrating support and commitment to meeting the unique needs of military-connected students and their families



- Created by 86th Legislature (SB 1577)
- Began 2020-21SY (TEA has awarded 6 years of PSCD)
- Awarded annually each Fall
- Designation lasts 2 years
- Campuses must re-apply for the designation

Why Purple Star Campus Designation Matters?

Recognition of
commitment to
military families



Builds trust and
enrollment appeal
for military
families



Enhances school
culture and
inclusivity



Timeline: Important Dates for PSCD Application Process



May 1

PSCD Window
Open



May 20

PSCD Office Hour



May 29

PSCD Window
Close



**June –
August**

Application
Review Process



Sept. 2026

26-27 PSCD
Awards
Announced



Purple Star PLCs

Purple Star Designated: What's Next?

Identifying Military-Connected Students

Developing a Purple Star Advisory Committee

Activities & Event Planning

Preparing for Redesignation

MCEC PDs

Supporting Military Children Through School Transitions: Foundations

College Bound- Financial Aid & College Preparations for Military Families

We Serve, Too- National Guard and Reserve Children

When Military Service Ends: Supporting the Children of Veterans

TEA Trainings & Conferences

Career & Technical Education for HMAR Students (Virtual)

Embrace Excellence: Become a Purple Star Campus (Texas Public Charter Schools Conference)

ESC Military Champions PD Day (MCEC GTS Summit)

Texas Military-Connected Student Support Summit (San Antonio)

Promoting Student Well-Being and Academic Success for HMAR Students (R20 Nurse Roundup)

Spring 2026 PSCD Interest Meeting (Virtual)



REMINDERS: MCS Professional Video Suites (8)



Military-Connected Students Program Video Suite - NEW

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), in partnership with the Military Child Education Coalition (MCEC), is proud to present this video series designed to support military-connected students, families, and educators across Texas. This collaborative effort reflects a shared commitment to fostering welcoming, responsive, and well-informed educational environments that recognize the unique experiences of military families. Through these videos, TEA and MCEC aim to empower educators and families with practical insights, resources, and strategies that promote academic success, emotional well-being, and strong school-community connections for every military-connected child.

The series is organized into four key topics, with each topic featuring two videos: one tailored for educators and the other for families, ensuring relevant and practical guidance for both audiences. *(Videos released 10/10/2025)*



- Military Culture and Lifestyle - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
- Military Families Relocating to Texas - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
- Military Connected Students with Exceptional and Special Needs - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)
- Supporting Military Families - [Family](#) and [Educator](#)

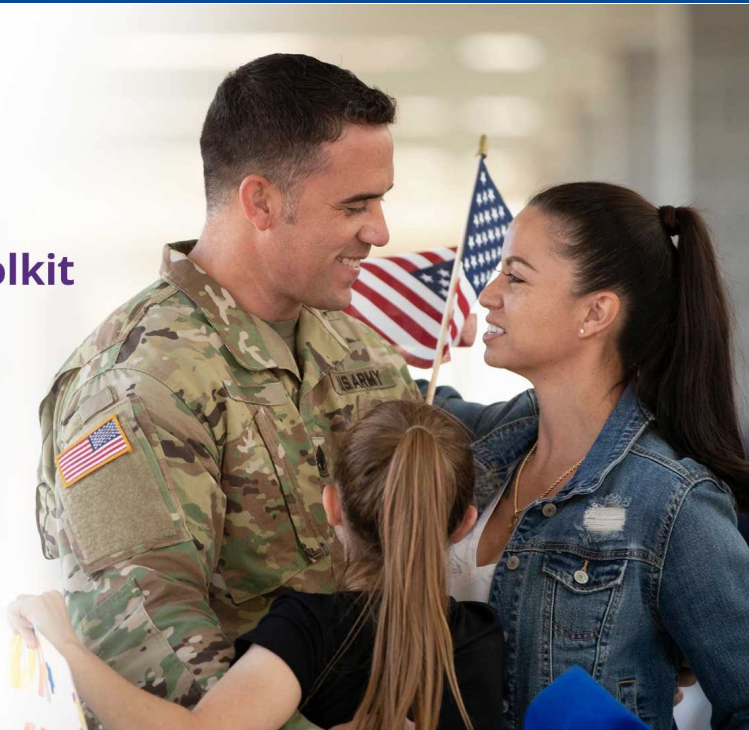


REMINDERS: Military Month Toolkits & Resources



National Veterans & Military Families Appreciation Month Toolkit

Each November, we recognize the service, sacrifice, and strength of our nation's Veterans and the families who support them. The Texas Education Agency is proud to provide this toolkit to help schools, educators, and communities across our state join in honoring military-connected students and families.



PURPLE UP Texas

BE BRAVE
BE STRONG
BE RESILIENT
BE SUPPORTIVE
BE MIGHTY
BE RESOURCEFUL
BE ADAPTABLE
BE TOUGH
Global
FUN
Kids
WE SERVE, TOO.

Education Service Center (ESC) Military Champion Student Support Framework

The purpose of this resource is to empower ESC Military Champions with the knowledge, tools, and resources to effectively advocate for military-connected students and families.

An ESC Military Champion is a voluntarily designated staff member at an Education Service Center who serves as a regional point of contact for school systems and military stakeholders to support the needs of military-connected students and their families.

HIGHLY MOBILE & AT RISK (HMAR) | MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT PROGRAM



2025-26 Texas Military Student Identifier Data Report

In efforts to strengthen the infrastructure, implementation, and support for military-connected students across Texas, TEA is strategically engaging with stakeholders to increase awareness, build capacity, and strengthen supports for addressing the needs of military connected students and families across Texas.

This data report was prepared using PEIMS Fall Snapshot Data (C197) as an opportunity for state and regional partners to:

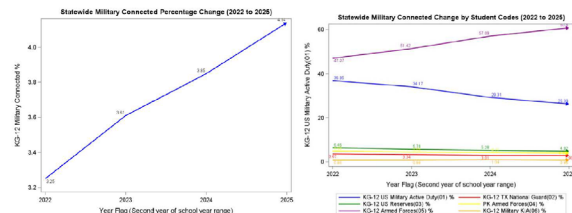
- Gain understanding of statewide and regional data trends regarding Military-Connected Student (MCS);
- Understand Implementation of Purple Star Campus Designation (PSCD);
- Identify areas for strengthening and improvement;
- Discuss and determine ways to enhance implementation strategies for supporting MCS

The following data report provides high-level information regarding the Texas Military Student Identifier (MSI) for 2025-26 SY, including overall statewide counts and trends of military connected students by MSI type, ESC Region, and information on PSCD.

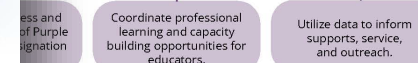
Statewide Military-Connected Student Count (4-Year Trend)

Military Status (PEIMS Code)	2022	2023	2024	2025
Active Duty in US Military (1)	65,236	68,103	62,436	60,531
TX National Guard (2)	6,476	6,665	6,415	6,848
Reserve Force (3)	11,404	11,440	11,248	11,288
Pre-K (4)	8,817	8,878	9,102	9,279
Veteran (5)	83,112	102,483	121,629	139,479
Fallen in the Line of Duty (6)	1,514	1,757	2,208	1,967
Total Military-Connected Students	176,556	199,326	213,038	229,392

Statewide Military-Connected Student Change (4-Year Trend)

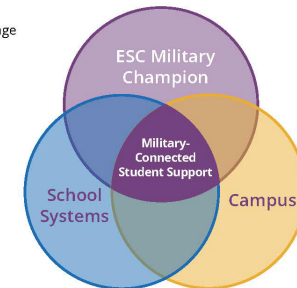


ESC Military Champion



Between ESCs, military installations, and school systems:

- Collaborate with military installation volunteers
- Support webpage
- Limited to: information
- Military-Connected
- MCEC*
- Contact information*
- Incoming meetings
- Checklist



- Groups to share military information (e.g., counselors, HMAR, liaisons/military installation school liaisons, VFW, JROTC programs, mission)
- Are in meetings and trainings

*Not all school systems will have a designated military liaison.



NEWLY LAUNCHED: Military TEALearn Course



Supporting Military-Connected Students in Texas



[→ Start Here](#)

[🗂 Modules](#)

[🔄 Canvas Refresher](#)



Welcome to the Supporting Military-Connected Students in Texas Course!

This course equips Texas educators and school personnel with the knowledge, strategies, and Texas-specific resources needed to effectively support military-connected students and ensure their academic, social, and emotional success.

Supporting Military-Connected Students in Texas Course

- Free, self-paced course
- Explore academic, social, emotional, and transitional challenges facing military-connected students
- Earn 3 CPE Hours (certification)

Modules Overview

Module 1: Introduction to Military-Connected Families and Children

Explore the demographics, culture, and experiences of military families and how they influence student learning.

Module 2: Understanding the Needs of Military-Connected Students

Examine the academic, social-emotional, and transitional challenges these students face.

Module 3: Supporting Military-Connected Students with Disabilities

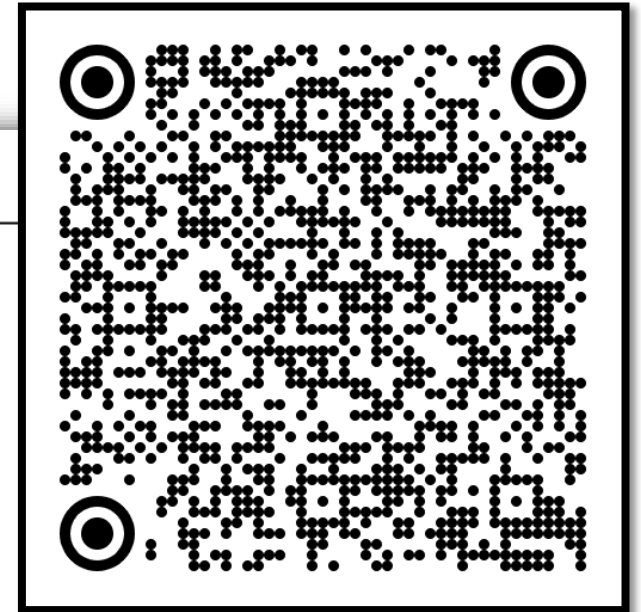
Discover inclusive strategies for meeting the needs of military-connected students with disabilities.

Module 4: Texas Laws and Policies

Learn about state legislation and initiatives that support and protect military-connected students.

Module 5: Leveraging Support Systems

Identify key school and community personnel who assist military-connected students, including transition consultants and liaisons.



COMING SOON: New School, New Beginning (Family Resource)



New School, New Beginning

A RESOURCE
FOR MILITARY
FAMILIES IN
TEXAS



Why Texas Purple Star Schools Matter to Military Families

Moving is part of military life, and for families with school-age children, finding the right school matters. Texas created the **Purple Star Campus Designation** to help military families feel confident that their child's school understands military life and is ready to support them from day one.

What Is a Texas Purple Star Campus?

A Purple Star Campus is a Texas school that has shown it is committed to supporting military-connected students. These schools know that military children may move often, start school mid-year, or experience a parent's deployment, and they are prepared to help.

What Purple Star Means for You

Seeing the Purple Star Campus Designation lets you know your child's school is prepared, informed, and committed to helping military-connected students thrive. It's one less thing to worry about during a move.



College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR)

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) developed the College and Career Readiness Standards (CCRS). They are a set of expectations that define what students should know and be able to do by the time they graduate from high school to be successful in entry-level college courses and in the workforce.

Purpose of CCRS

- Support student readiness for both college and careers.
- Bridge high school and college expectations.
- Guide curriculum and instruction.

What Subjects Are Covered?

- English/Language Arts (ELA)
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Cross-disciplinary skills

What This Means for Your Child

- Succeed in college without needing extra support classes.
- Be prepared for careers or job training after graduation.
- Feel confident handling academic and real-world challenges.

In Texas schools, College, Career, and Military Readiness (CCMR) indicators help shape the opportunities students receive so they graduate prepared for postsecondary education, the workforce, or military service. As part of the state's overall accountability system, CCMR indicators contribute to the Student Achievement domain, which evaluates performance across all subjects for all students on STAAR and STAAR End-Of-Course (EOC) assessments, CCMR outcomes, and graduation rates. CCMR includes access to advanced coursework, college credit, Career and Technical Education (CTE), industry certifications, military readiness options such as the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB), and strong advising support, providing students with multiple pathways to reach their goals.

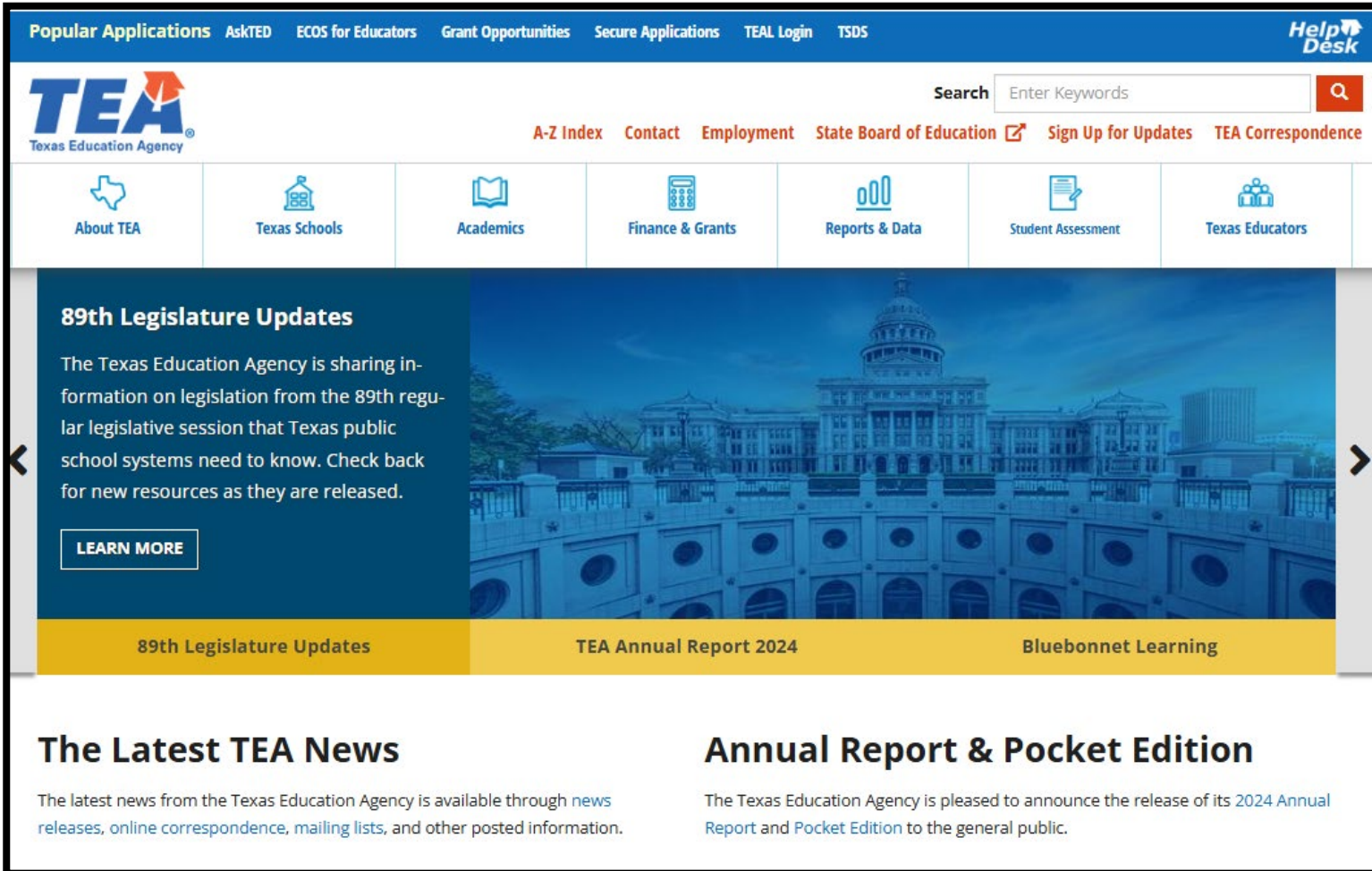


To learn more,
visit the Texas
Education
Agency website.

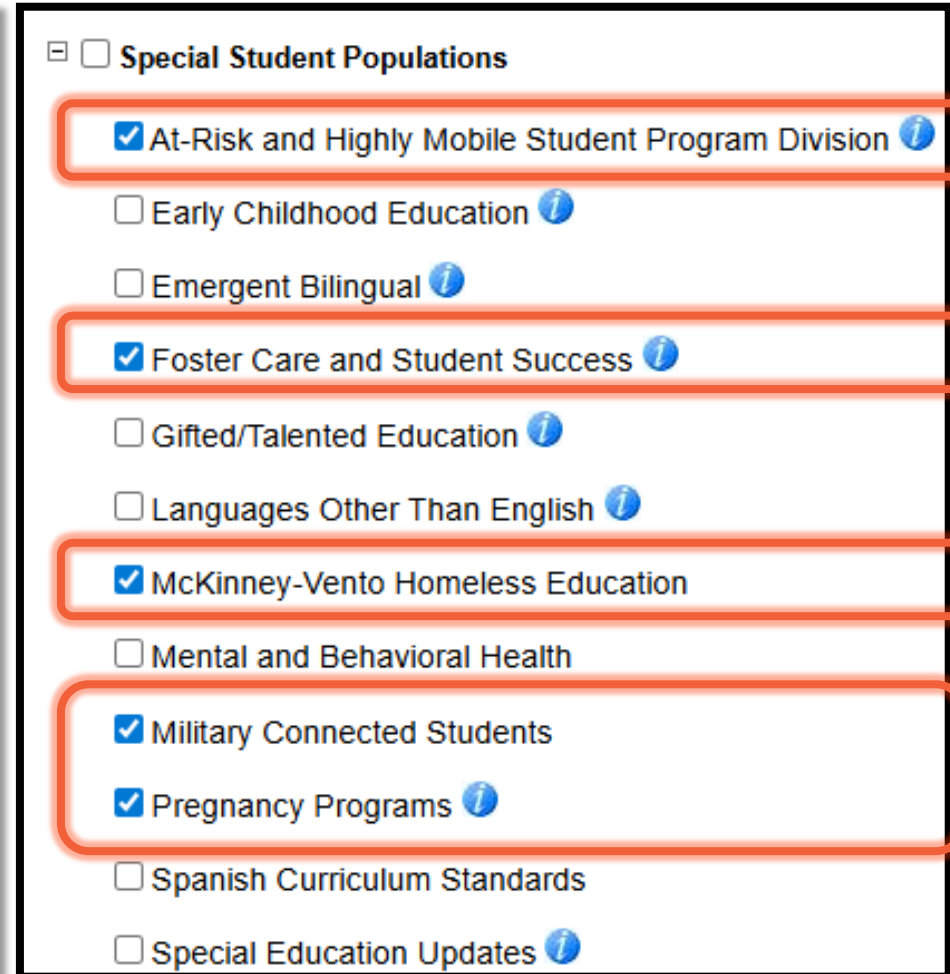
The background of the slide is a blue-tinted photograph of a Texas state flag hanging in a classroom. The flag is the primary focus, with its white star and vertical stripes clearly visible. In the background, a classroom is visible with students sitting at desks, though they are out of focus. A white rectangular box is centered on the slide, containing the text.

Closing Remarks

How to Subscribe | Sign Up for Updates!



The screenshot shows the TEA website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for Popular Applications, AskTED, ECOS for Educators, Grant Opportunities, Secure Applications, TEAL Login, and TSDS. A Help Desk icon is also present. Below this is the TEA logo and a search bar. A secondary navigation bar includes links for A-Z Index, Contact, Employment, State Board of Education, Sign Up for Updates, and TEA Correspondence. A main menu features icons for About TEA, Texas Schools, Academics, Finance & Grants, Reports & Data, Student Assessment, and Texas Educators. The main content area has a large banner for '89th Legislature Updates' with a 'LEARN MORE' button. Below the banner are three featured sections: '89th Legislature Updates', 'TEA Annual Report 2024', and 'Bluebonnet Learning'. At the bottom, there are two columns for 'The Latest TEA News' and 'Annual Report & Pocket Edition'.



The screenshot shows a subscription form titled 'Special Student Populations'. The form has a list of checkboxes for different student groups. The following items are checked:

- At-Risk and Highly Mobile Student Program Division [i](#)
- Foster Care and Student Success [i](#)
- McKinney-Vento Homeless Education
- Military Connected Students
- Pregnancy Programs [i](#)

The following items are unchecked:

- Early Childhood Education [i](#)
- Emergent Bilingual [i](#)
- Gifted/Talented Education [i](#)
- Languages Other Than English [i](#)
- Mental and Behavioral Health
- Spanish Curriculum Standards
- Special Education Updates [i](#)

HMAR Programs' Email Contact

HMAR Website



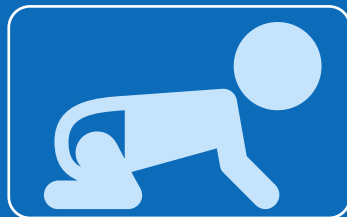
Texas Education for Homeless Children and Youth (TEHCY) Program

HomelessEducation@tea.texas.gov



Foster Care and Student Success (FC)

FosterCareLiaison@tea.texas.gov



Pregnancy Related Services (PRS)

PregnancyRelatedServices@tea.texas.gov



Military Connected Students (MCS)

MilitaryConnectedStudents@tea.texas.gov

That was a lot of information! Let's wrap up with a summarized list of key take-aways.

Guest Speaker

- Thank you, David, for sharing about Texas ChalleNGe Academy, an alternative education for at-risk youth and high school dropouts.
- Contact: ddemers@riceraiders.net

TEHCY

- TEHCY End of Year (EOY) review of systems will take place.
- Professional Development on the TEHCY Web Portal.
- TEHCY Grant Reminders: 2025–26 grant deadline is 8/31/26

At-Risk

- Transition Assistance for Students and Families
- Begin Planning for the Upcoming School Year
- May is National Foster Care Awareness Month

Military

- PSCD Application Window Open
- NEW Military TEA Learn Course
- NEW Family Transition Tool



Thank you!