



TRANSLATING OPPORTUNITY TEXAS: A STRATEGY OF TALENT STRONG TEXAS PATHWAYS

INFORMATION & COMMITMENTS FOR COHORT 2

About the Opportunity

Translating Opportunity Texas: A Strategy of Talent Strong Texas Pathways aims to support all community colleges in Texas in establishing effective English as a Second Language (ESL) pathways from adult education to credentials of value, including industry-based certifications, certificates, and degrees leading to careers with living wages. In partnership with WestEd, Student-Ready Strategies, and the Center for Community College Engagement, and with generous support from Ascendium Education Group, the Texas Success Center (TSC) first launched this initiative with a cohort of four Texas community colleges in 2024.

Now, TSC is accepting applications for a second cohort of four community colleges to join in this work. These colleges will be co-development partners in refining processes and tools to redesign and accelerate ESL pathways to students' completion and career success within their Talent Strong Texas Pathways framework for institutional reform. Ultimately, this project will contribute to the scaling of best practices across the state.

Participating colleges will receive a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to support project activities.

College Commitments

Colleges participating in cohort 2 for this project will be expected to:

- **Complete a readiness assessment [linked here](#)** to determine a baseline for your institution's work in this area
- **Identify an institutional team** inclusive of faculty and student services staff to provide leadership for the project
- **Attend and engage in all in-person and virtual cohort convenings and events over three years**, including the biannual (fall and spring) Texas Pathways Institute convenings that take place in person
- **Participate in meetings and provide needed documentation** for technical assistance activities, including institutional policy review, student journey mapping, ESL curricular mapping, and student-facing communications and services review
- **Develop and track the implementation of a comprehensive institutional action plan** to strengthen the institution's ESL pathways and support MLE students
- **Contribute to a limited number of blogs, videos, and other external learning documents** to assist with scaling these efforts to other colleges
- **Collect and submit data** on MLE students at your campus to the Texas Success Center:
 - **Facilitate any required institutional review board (IRB) processes** to authorize the submission of those data to the project partners
- **Engage and nominate students** to participate in an advisory group

Application Process

- 1 Institutions interested in joining cohort 2 must submit the [linked application](#) to the Texas Success Center by **May 1, 2025**.
- 2 Institutions will be notified by **May 9, 2025**, if they have been selected to participate in cohort 2.
- 3 Selected institutions will be required to submit a commitment form signed by the institution's president/CEO to confirm participation in the project by **May 23, 2025**.

Timeline of Major Project Activities



FAQs

How is the target population for this project defined?

This project will focus on multilingual learners of English (MLE) who meet the following criteria:

- Students who are enrolled in adult education and literacy (i.e., High School Equivalency or English as a Second Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages) at a community college, and with a goal of attending college credit-bearing courses (i.e., those leading to a certificate or degree)
- Students enrolled in ESL continuing education courses at a community college, and with a goal of attending college credit-bearing courses (i.e., those leading to a certificate or degree)
- Students enrolled in ESL courses that are considered pre-college or college credit

Is there a cost to participate?

No. Thanks to the generosity of Ascendium Education Group, this opportunity is provided to institutions at no cost. Institutions may incur costs related to attending the Texas Pathways Institute convenings if the number of institutional attendees exceeds the seven team members covered by the Texas Success Center.

What are the project outcomes?

Participating colleges will, throughout this project:

- Provide leadership for MLE-focused institutional reform for Texas community colleges
- Provide clear and accessible credential pathways from ESL to credential completion and career success
- Prepare faculty and staff to help students navigate the pathways by implementing early opportunities for students to connect with programs, enroll in continuing education or credit courses, and build a sense of purpose and belonging
- Implement student-centered, holistic supports within and outside of the classroom

What are the benefits of participating?

This is an opportunity to work with technical assistance providers, content experts, and peers at other institutions in a focused effort to improve the educational opportunities for students in ESL programs. The participating colleges will receive customized support throughout the process and will contribute to improving processes and tools for use by other colleges. We also expect this work to garner national attention as colleges across the country are looking at how to better support the growing population of MLE students.

What kind of data will we be required to submit?

- A list of ESL courses, including courses within Adult Literacy, Continuing Education, and those offered as pre-college or college credit, with the following:
 - Course name
 - Credits earned
 - Prerequisite(s)
- De-identified student records from a representative academic term, including:
 - Demographics (age, race, income, and enrollment status)
 - Result of the ESL placement process
 - Course enrollment indicator and course grades in ESL course(s)

Commitment Statement

My institution is committed to participating in the Translating Opportunity Texas: A Strategy of Talent Strong Texas Pathways cohort. As the CEO, I will support this effort to ensure the appropriate staff, faculty, and students are fully engaged in all cohort events, meetings, activities, and opportunities and that the resulting work aligns with the college's Talent Strong Texas Pathways strategy.

President/CEO Signature

Date

Please direct any questions to Dr. Martha Ellis at mellis@tacc.org.