

Translating Opportunity Texas: A Strategy of Talent Strong Texas Pathways

November 13, 2025

Made possible by support from Ascendium Education Group



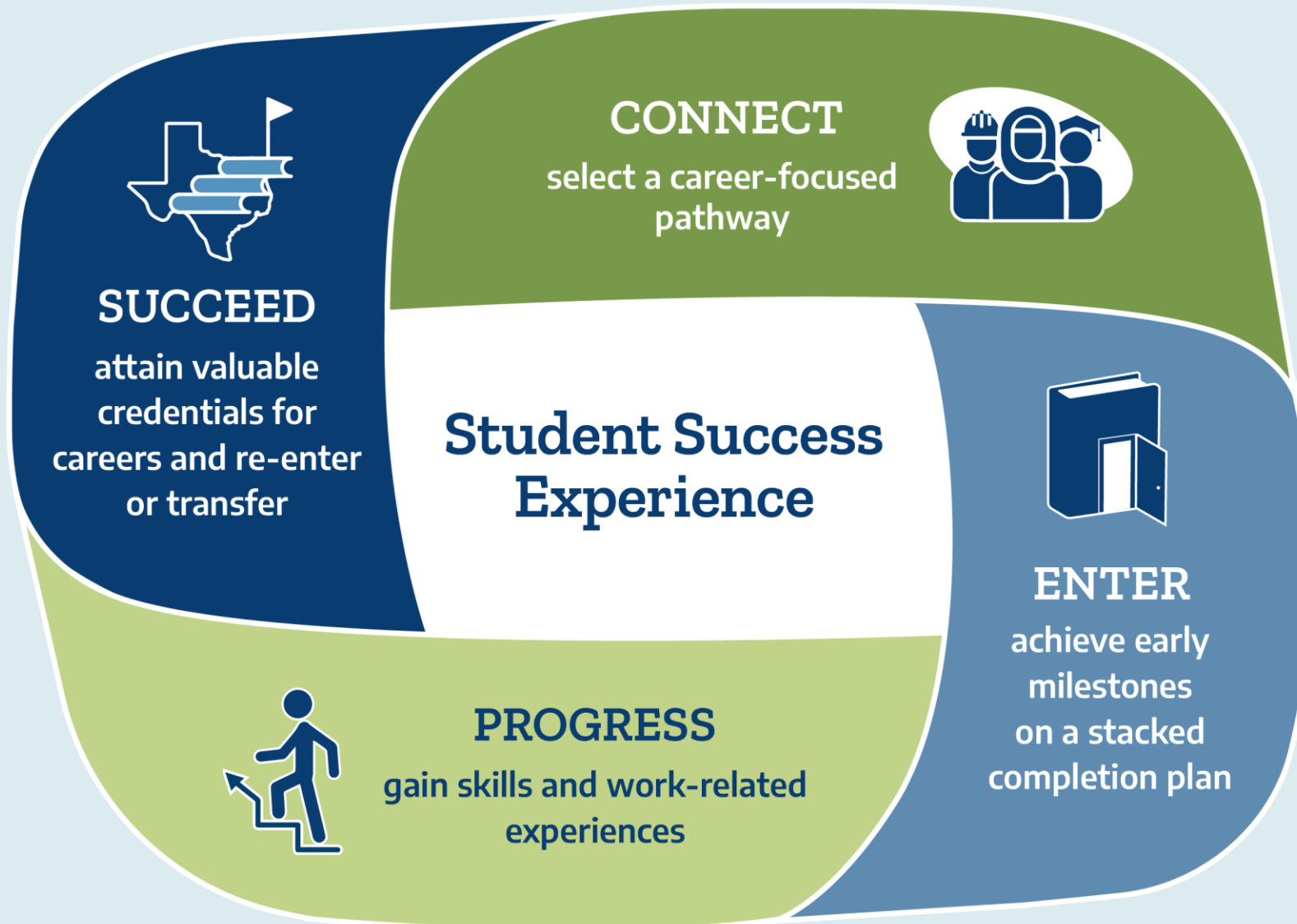
Welcome & Introductions



Why is TOT a priority for TSC?



Talent Strong Texas Pathways Framework



Success

Accomplishment and
Self-Fulfillment Needs
Students' Career Goals
Socio-Economic Mobility

Belonging
& Wellness

Psychological,
Basic & Safety Needs

What is TOT?





Translating Opportunity Texas

Translating Opportunity Texas is a coalition of partners working with Texas colleges to establish effective English as a Second Language practices, within their Talent Strong Texas pathways framework for institutional reform, from adult education to credentials of value, including industry-based certifications, certificates, and degrees leading to careers with living wages.



Background

In 2023, we started a journey to better understand postsecondary pathways for Multilingual Learners of English (MLE) students.

We wanted to know:

- What do we know about the postsecondary MLE population?
- What are the postsecondary outcomes for MLE students?
- What federal, state, and institutional policies impact MLE students in postsecondary?
- What postsecondary program structures, designs, and practices impact MLE students?
- Which supports do postsecondary MLE students, faculty, and staff need?



Check out the paper!

- Action-oriented recommendations
 - Call to Action
 - Things you can do immediately
- 50-state policy scan
- Literature review and extensive reference list
- Stakeholder interviews
- Glossary



TEXAS SUCCESS CENTER
manage and coordinate state effort within the Texas Pathways framework



INFORMED BY:
Research (WE/SRS)
Student Advisory Groups (WE)
Student Focus Groups (CCCSE)
Case Studies (WE)



Institutions develop and implement plans to improve **ESL pathways**



SUPPORTED BY:
Technical Assistance (SRS)
Resources (SRS/WE)
Professional Learning (WE)
Peer Learning (Cohort)



Refine processes, resources, tools; publish research



Empower local leaders and advocates



STATE & NATIONAL IMPACT
Improve outcomes for students
Raise awareness and inspire change
Support action in colleges in Texas and nationally
Lay foundation for ongoing research

Purpose

Translating Opportunity Texas will:

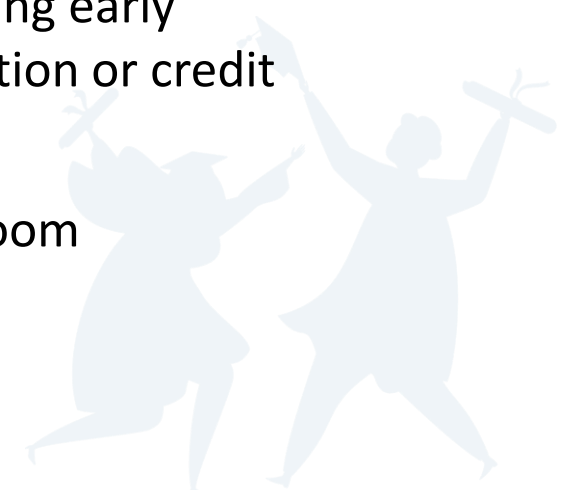
- Support all community colleges in Texas in establishing effective English as a Second Language (ESL) pathways from adult education to credentials of value, including industry-based certifications, certificates, and degrees leading to careers with living wages
- Co-develop and refine processes and tools to redesign and accelerate ESL pathways to students' completion and career success within their Talent Strong Texas Pathways framework for institutional reform
- Inform activities for a second cohort of Texas community colleges
- Contribute to the scaling of best practices across the state



Objectives

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



Prioritizing Student Voice and Engagement

Student Focus Groups

Case Studies

Student Advisory Council



Because I definitely want a better job, and I want a better future for me and for my children, and I think that is going to happen, just being at school and getting at least a certificate or a degree.

After three weeks, I feel more confident. I know my deficits, because I understand and I learn how to detect what I need to improve my skills in English, thanks to the ESL program.

I really love to be in this college. They opened my eyes about my opportunities... It's hard. It's hard for me, for my age, and because I have children and I don't have enough time to study, but this is my happy place for me.

Project Partners



Texas Success Center



Cohort 1 Colleges



Cohort 2 Colleges



Cohort 1 Perspective

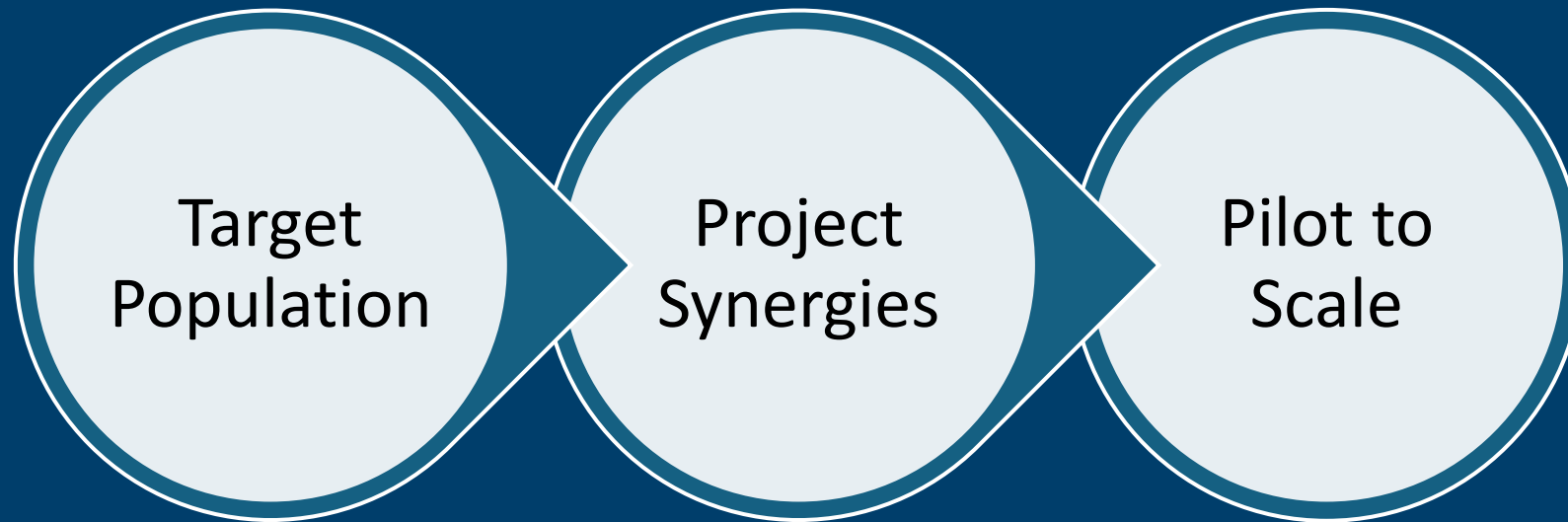


Anne Bartlett

Vice President for Industry and Strategic Initiatives
Brazosport College



Why is TOT a priority for Brazosport College?



Progress/Wins



Pathways
Perkins x2



Communications
Website & Student
Testimonies



Student Supports
Fred the Gator



AEL Alignment
Focus on
Occupations and
Outcomes



Opportunities

Funding



Pace of Change



Competing Priorities



New Frontier



Resources and Tools



Resource Hub

Features

- Research briefs & reports
- Presentations & videos
- Toolkits from colleges' MLE program work

Support for faculty & staff

- Regularly updated with new content
- Promoted via website, email, and social media
- Resources will be shared through partner networks, reaching beyond Texas.



A centralized space for Texas colleges to access professional learning tools and strategic insights - all in one place.

<https://tacc.org/tsc/translating-opportunity-texas>

The screenshot shows the Texas Success Center website. The header includes the Texas Success Center logo and navigation tabs for 'COMMUNITY COLLEGES', 'CENTER', and 'ASSOCIATION OF TEXAS'. A search bar is visible. The main navigation menu includes 'ABOUT', 'OUR STRATEGY', 'KNOWLEDGE DEVELOPMENT', 'LEADERSHIP ACADEMY', 'TOT', and 'EVENTS'. The 'TOT' link is highlighted with a blue arrow. The main content area features the title 'Translating Opportunity Texas' and a description: 'Translating Opportunity Texas is a coalition of partners working with Texas colleges to establish effective English as a Second Language practices...'. A sidebar on the right contains 'PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MODULES' and 'OUR PARTNERS' buttons.





TEXAS SUCCESS CENTER

Translating Opportunity Texas

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Current Landscape

In 2023, WestEd and Student-Ready Strategies published a report, ***Translating Opportunity: Improving Postsecondary Pathways for Multilingual Learners of English***, which 1) examines the characteristics of the MLE students, who play an important role in U.S. society but are often marginalized and underserved in the postsecondary system; 2) explains how postsecondary education policies, structures, and practices impact this population; 3) identifies the supports that MLE students, faculty, and staff need to increase student success in the postsecondary space. Using a multi-strand approach (outlined below), insights were made that Translating Opportunity is now putting into action in collaboration with Texas colleges.



Qualitative Data from Interviews



English as a Second Language (ESL) Course Maps Analysis



Literature Overview



50 State Policy Scan

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING MODULES

OUR PARTNERS

Cohort 1 Colleges:

- [Amarillo College](#)
- [Brazosport College](#)
- [El Paso Community College](#)
- [Houston City College](#)

Cohort 2 Colleges:

- [Austin Community College](#)
- [Grayson College](#)
- [San Jacinto College](#)
- [South Texas College](#)

Resource Hub

<https://tacc.org/tsc/translating-opportunity-texas>

Professional Learning Modules

A series of virtual, peer-facilitated modules designed for faculty and staff who work with multilingual learners of English.

Each session combines expert insights, guided reflection, and collaborative discussion, providing practical strategies that educators can apply immediately.

- Presenters are scholars and practitioners
- Facilitated by Dr. Emily Suh
- Housed on the TOT Resource Hub



- Sessions designed for faculty to engage in PL together

Professional Learning Modules

Topics

1. Incorporating Existing Resources into the MLE Context (Fall 2025)
2. Unpacking assumptions: Teaching Reading in ML classroom (Fall 2025)
3. Generative AI and Language Instruction (Spring 2026)
4. TBD – need your input 😊

Module Design

Design and content has been developed in collaboration with faculty from the cohort colleges.

- Each module includes a video, a facilitator guide and resources.
- Designed to be used in groups of 3 – 20 people with a designated facilitator.
- Video contains points to stop and have discussions or do activities.

Campfire Chat series

Spotlight on
Innovation:

Learning from Texas
Colleges

- Discover short (20-30 min), recorded webinar sessions where Texas college departments share their insights on ESOL program success.
- Each session highlights best practices, common challenges, and actionable tips to help other institutions adapt and thrive.

Campfire Chat series

Spotlight on
Innovation:

Learning from Texas
Colleges

Bridge programs

- Houston City College (Nov 2025)
- El Paso Community College (Dec 2025)

Student Website review (Jan 2026)

Other topics of interest to cohort 1 and 2 colleges

Cohort Report

Translating Opportunity Texas

Multilingual Learners of English
Focus Group Findings

Cohort One Colleges



CCCSE
INSIGHTS THAT MATTER

Questions?

Fred Hills, Texas Success Center
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