

Scaling Texas Pathways Advising

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Research Questions

- How do academic advisors help students (1) choose a pathway, (2) enter a pathway, and (3) stay on course?
- What are students' academic advising experiences like within the Texas Pathways context?
- Which advising reforms have the greatest impact on students' advising experiences?
- How do students' experiences with academic advising differ across race/ ethnicity, gender, and age, if at all?



Methodology

- Multi-site case study
 - 2 very large, 1 large, 1 medium
- Bounded
 - Texas Pathways Colleges
 - Advising reforms at scale or scaling
- Methods
 - Advising Program Profiles
 - Student Surveys
 - Student Interviews
 - Advisor Interviews
 - Advising Administrator Interviews



Preliminary Findings: Lessons From the Field



Advising Interactions

Integration

- Select a program aligned with students' career and life goals
- Select a degree option aligned with students' career and life goals
- Connect students to out-of-class opportunities

Information

- Provide students with information about college processes and procedures
- Provide accurate information about degree requirements

Referral

- When needed, refer students to appropriate academic supports
- When needed, connect students with appropriate non-academic support services and resources

Individuation

- Getting to know students as individuals
- Take into account students' skills, abilities, and interests in helping them choose courses

Shared Responsibility

- Encouraging students to assume responsibility for their education by helping them develop planning, problem-solving, and decision-making skills



Next Steps: Student Surveys

- Combined questions of specialized advising and pathways items sets on CCCSE and SENSE
- Overall structure of advising
- Actions taken by advisors during advising sessions to help students choose a pathway, enter a pathway, and stay on course
- Students perceptions about the interactions
- Patterns across race/ ethnicity, gender, and age



Next Step: Student Interviews

- Population selected from surveys
- Students' perspectives about their advising experiences
- Students' subjective experiences about the degree to which advisors help them choose a pathway, enter a pathway, and stay on course
- The degree to which students feel supported by advisors
- Student's perceptions about the types of advising they find most useful



Next Steps

- Advisor interviews
- Advising administrator interviews
- An outline of common best practices for advisors
- Areas for improvement for each college



Questions, suggestions, and
guidance are always appreciated

THANK YOU!

