

MEGAN MENCHACA

meganmenchaca.com | X: @meganmmenchaca | megan.menchaca@houstonchronicle.com

JOURNALISM EXPERIENCE

Houston Chronicle

Senior Education Reporter

April 2025 - present

- Cover the state takeover of Houston ISD, the largest school district in Texas, with focus on accountability and policy-driven stories
- Pitched and published monthslong series on HISD's failures to prepare Black and Hispanic students for college or career success
- Served as lead reporter and writer for "Gone Too Soon," a 9,000-word project memorializing victims who died in July 4 floods
- Regularly share K-12 reporting on local and state radio programs, such as Texas Standard, Houston Public Media and KPFT

K-12 Education Reporter

July 2023 - April 2025

- Led reporting on district's failure to pass \$4.4 billion school bond, the largest bond proposal in state history, in 2024 election
- Broke stories on superintendent's \$126K bonus, the state's removal of four board members and abuse of graduation committees
- Co-authored and produced "The Report Card," a weekly newsletter for thousands of readers about K-12 education stories
- Honored twice for "team effort" by Texas Managing Editors for coverage of HISD's enrollment drops and superintendent's reforms

Copy Editing Intern

June 2021 – August 2021

Austin American-Statesman

Higher Education Reporter

August 2021 - July 2023

- Reported breaking news, daily articles and enterprise on higher education, the University of Texas at Austin and UT System
- Covered education legislation at the Texas Legislature, including high-profile debates on tenure and removal of certain DEI efforts
- Authored four-part series exploring on-campus housing affordability and campus wages for students and faculty at UT-Austin
- Contributed to K-12 coverage, including reporting on Uvalde school shooting and Austin ISD interim superintendent selection

Digital Intern

February 2019 - May 2019

The Texas Tribune

Reporting Fellow

January 2021 - May 2021

- Covered statewide politics, public policy, the COVID-19 pandemic and additional political news during the 87th legislative session
- Interviewed lawmakers, experts and other Texans for articles on COVID-19, proposed state legislation and 2021 winter storm
- Shared stories of Texans worried over access to vaccines, relaxed business restrictions and loss of unemployment benefits

Engagement Fellow

August 2019 - May 2020

- Helped manage and produce content for The Texas Tribune's social media accounts, including Twitter, Facebook and Instagram
- Created Twitter threads, Instagram stories and other digital posts on several subjects, such as COVID-19, abortion and elections

The Daily Texan

Managing Editor

August 2020 - December 2020

- Ran University of Texas student newspaper with 230+ journalists, where I approved all content and oversaw all non-opinion teams
- Won Weekly Newspaper of the Year from College Media Association, 2nd Best Newspaper from Texas Intercollegiate Press Association
- Previously served as digital director, news editor, social media editor, newsletters editor, associate news editor and senior news reporter

The Dallas Morning News

Audience Engagement Intern

June 2020 - August 2020

EDUCATION

The University of Texas at Austin

Bachelor of Journalism and B.A. in Government

Graduation: May 2021